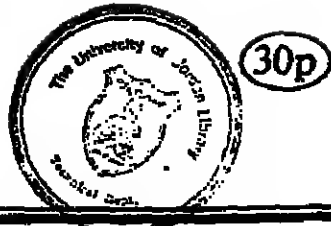


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THE TIMES

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 7 1988



The party's over: Morgan Grenfell gives 450 the sack



Mr John Craven: More than two months' consideration.

By David Brewerton and Geoffrey Foster

The biggest shake-out in the City since Big Bang two years ago was confirmed yesterday when Morgan Grenfell, the bank, closed its trading operations in shares and gilt-edged securities.

About 450 people are to lose their jobs, after reading in the morning newspapers that the securities business was being axed.

Morgan Grenfell has spent £60 million in building up and supporting its market-making activities, but has decided that after losing £13 million on shares in the past five months it would shut up shop.

Also facing closure is the gilt-edged market-making operations, which have lost £4.5 million in the past 11 months.

The losses follow a price war

among leading City securities houses started by the American-owned Citicorp Scrimgeour Victors, which has left all of them facing losses in the past three months.

Morgan Grenfell is still working out redundancy terms for the staff involved. The decision to close the two key elements of Morgan Grenfell Securities took most of its dealers by surprise.

It was the morning after the Christmas party and only a few weeks after Mr John Craven, the group chief executive, had declared that the bank was strongly committed to building up its securities side despite the losses.

However, Mr Craven told The Times yesterday that the board had been considering the closure for more than two months. Many dealers heard of their fate through

rumours in the press, some were told by colleagues on the train to work; some were rung by dealers from other firms.

As they stopped dealing, other market-makers started buying, sending the Morgan Grenfell share

price up immediately by 12p. Rival dealers realized that 450 job losses meant a leaner, fitter Morgan Grenfell.

To add to the outrage felt by staff, a number of people in the City had been approached to join the bank's dealing operations as recently as two weeks ago, with generous "golden hellos" on offer.

Morgan Grenfell is asking a few staff to stay to organize the clearing

up operation and deal with clients and to form the nucleus of a small research-based operation. Mr Craven warned: "It is not in anyone's interest to resign, because that would immediately disqualify them for redundancy payments."

He promised that everyone who is made redundant will be told of the terms by letter within the next 48 hours.

He has lined up 40 "outplacement officers" to counsel staff. For the 450 who are out, redundancy terms have been set at £10 million. Salaries of staff to go range from back-office workers earning less than £20,000 to senior executives earning up to £250,000. On-screen dealers earn in a range from £35,000 to £100,000, depending on bonuses.

Staff were "advised" to take one or two days off while their redun-

dancy packages were being worked out. Mr Craven denied, however, that they had been locked out of the building.

But because of fears that a disgruntled member of staff could plant a "virus" in the computer, those who had been working on the information technology side were being accompanied by security personnel when on the premises.

Full details of the shutdown plans were available for all to see on the Stock Exchange Topic screens by 11 am, by which time press and television cameras were gathering in the street outside, and the bars were open. Drowning their sorrows in the Pavilion, the Scottish Pound and various drinking holes within a stone's throw of Finsbury Circus in the City of London, market-makers young and old were scathing in their

criticism of the management's handling of the shock redundancy news. One younger equity dealer, faced the daunting task of telephoning his wife with the news of a surprise Christmas lump-sum, but the prospect of the dole queue in the New Year stated: "The management are gutless. Last year they sacked people the morning after the Christmas party and this year they let their loyal staff find out the worst by other means. I was told by a friend who works for a rival securities firm on the train this morning. I took it with a pinch of salt and laughed it off, but I feel livid now."

Almost to a man, the Morgan Grenfell men admitted that they were not told by the management until after they had read about it in the morning papers and after they

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Shipbuilders to close with 2,000 jobs lost

Retraining package to soften blow for workers

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Government will announce today that North East Shipbuilders is to close with the loss of 2,000 jobs.

The closure of the Sunderland-based subsidiary of British Shipbuilders comes after months of uncertainty and a final attempt, launched three weeks ago, to find a purchaser.

Up to 4,000 jobs in associated industries are also at risk.

The Government is expected to soften the blow by

announcing a package of measures to help the workers find alternative employment and reclaim the land made derelict. It will include help with relocation and retraining and be designed to mitigate the impact on the local economy.

The Treasury and the Department of the Environment held talks with the Department of Trade and Industry on the closure proposals as hopes of finding a buyer faded again during the past two weeks.

The closure, to be announced in the Commons today by Mr Tony Newton, the Minister for Trade and Industry, has been delayed several times.

When it was called off at the beginning of last month Labour MPs said it had been delayed to avoid embarrassing the Prime Minister during her visit to Poland, where she met Mr Lech Walesa, leader of Solidarity, the banned trade union, at the Gdansk shipyard.

However, the Government emphasized that it was still seeking information about possible buyers for the yard. On November 14 Mr Newton told the Commons that none of the previous four bids had proved acceptable, but, in a last-minute reprieve, he said that three further expressions of interest were to be explored in a "last effort".

Mr Newton, who was known to be reluctant to close the yard if an alternative could be found, has been anxious not to raise false hopes. He therefore set a deadline for the end of November.

One of the potential buyers represented overseas interests and another involved organizations and individuals brought together by Mr Bob Clay, Labour MP for Sunderland North. The extra time was also seen as valuable for prospective buyers to learn the outcome of negotiations between NESL and Mamhisa, the Cuban state shipping company which was considering placing an order worth £120 million, but it has now been decided that none of the potential buyers are acceptable.

NESL was for sale as part of the Government's plan to return British Shipbuilders to private ownership.

The closure will be bitterly attacked today by the Opposition, the unions and the Wearside workforce. Mr Bryan Gould, Labour's trade and industry spokesman said the future of British shipbuilding was "too important to be sacrificed on the altar of privatization".

The bids are understood to have been ruled out because they either involve unacceptable conditions or too great a subsidy to be acceptable under the rules of the European Community. The state-owned shipbuilding sector has cost the taxpayer some £2 billion since 1979.

Shipbuilding on Wearside stretches back to the fourteenth-century and once employed 20,000 people. The people of Sunderland have fought a long campaign against closure, with posters in shop windows and a 100,000 name petition.

Water cost 'to leap ahead of sell-off'

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Water charges are to rise by more than the rate of inflation next year and the 28 existing water companies are being advised to use a "one off" opportunity to maximize charges before privatization, according to a leaked letter obtained by the Labour party.

An independent consultant advising Labour on water privatization said charges would soar by up to 15 per cent above the rate of inflation.

Labour produced the letter from Ernst and Whinney, the

chartered accountants representing the Water Companies' association, on the eve of the second reading of the Water Privatization Bill.

The letter also advises the companies "not to suggest that privatization as such makes these tariff increases necessary".

The scheme aims for the companies to maximize charges as it is likely that 1989 prices will serve as the basis for the charges the Government will regulate after

Continued on page 22, col 7

The shepherd prince at play

JAMES GRAY



Prince Henry, right, taking a classmate in hand yesterday during rehearsals for the nativity play at Jane Mynors School, Notting Hill, London. The Prince, aged four, plays a shepherd.

Kinnock loses two key aides in terror revolt

By Philip Webster and Richard Ford

Mr Neil Kinnock faced an internal Labour Party revolt last night over his handling of the terrorism issue.

Two Labour frontbenchers resigned over Mr Kinnock's instructions to his MPs to abstain in the vote last night on the second reading of the Bill renewing anti-terrorist laws. About 40 MPs were expected to defy the order.

Miss Clare Short, a front-bench employment spokesman, resigned before the vote with a sharply-worded attack on Mr Kinnock's leadership.

In a letter, Miss Short said she was not willing to be "threatened or bullied" and appealed to Mr Kinnock to reconsider the way he managed the party.

"Constant threats and denunciations simply reinforce the image of a divided and hickering party," she said.

Mr Kinnock, who earlier had what Miss Short called a "very friendly" meeting with her, denied her accusation, saying that neither she nor any MP had been bullied.

The other frontbencher to resign was Mr Andrew Bennett, the higher education spokesman, who said abstaining against the Bill would be taking the easy way out.

Another frontbencher was dissuaded from resigning after talks with Mr Kinnock. Mr Clive Soley, the party's housing spokesman, was reported to be also unhappy about the decision, although he had agreed to toe the line.

Earlier, the Prime Minister and Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, called on the Labour Party to return to a bipartisan stance.

The Labour dispute arose over the Shadow Cabinet's instruction to MPs to abstain

on the second reading of the Bill. In recent years, it has opposed the measure but its tactics this year are dictated by the Bill's provision to seize terrorist funds, which it supports. However, it remains opposed to the Bill's central powers of arrest and detention.

To accommodate Labour opposition to those powers, the Shadow Cabinet tabled an amendment for last night's debate emphasizing its opposition to the detention powers.

Mr Kinnock, in his letter to Mr Bennett, defended the strategy which he said enabled

Labour to uphold civil rights while supporting the powers to confiscate terrorist funds.

Mr Kinnock said he could not agree that it was "the easy way out". He said: "I do not not recommend such a course to the shadow cabinet or the PLP on such fundamental issues as civil rights."

Mrs Margaret Thatcher said at Question Time that everyone would only believe that every-one was serious about fighting terrorism when Labour joined the Tories in voting for the prevention of terrorism Bill.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, moving the second reading of the Bill, said "it would be a great strength to this country if we were able to proceed with general agreement".

He said those who opposed the provisions had not thought through the nature of terrorism, its techniques and the means which society needed to prevent the spilling of blood or dealing effectively with those who spilt it.

WIN £40,000 Portfolio PLUS Accumulator. There were no winners of yesterday's £4,000 daily prize, so the Portfolio Accumulator rises to £40,000 today. Prices: page 29

INSIDE Thatcher 'rebuke' for Currie. Mrs Margaret Thatcher delivered an implied rebuke to Mrs Edwina Currie, Under Secretary of State for Health, over her remarks on egg contamination, yesterday when she distanced herself from Mrs Currie's remarks.

IMF warning Higher interest rates could have a serious effect on the economies of industrialized nations, despite higher growth forecasts, the International Monetary Fund said. Page 23

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'Multi-million pound' claims to follow radiation reports

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Compensation claims on behalf of more than 70 cancer patients who received accidental overdoses of radiation at the Royal Devoe and Exeter Hospital are being pursued in the wake of yesterday's publication of two official reports into the affair.

The cost of the claims is likely to total many millions of pounds.

A total of 207 patients received up to 25 per cent too much radiation between February and July this year. Seventy-eight of them have since died from their illness rather than from the effects, but almost 50 others are at high risk of serious or severe side effects, some of which could be life-threatening, according to findings in the reports.

The chairman of Exeter Health Authority, Mr Murray French, said yesterday the authority would "seek swift settlements and early interim payments where there is no dispute on liability".

Mr French said the payouts could run into millions and the authority was not insured. He said it was "willing and eager" to make interim payments to those "who can prove they have been damaged and that they have a need".

That brought an angry reaction from a solicitor, Mr Chris Over, who is co-ordinating the claims of 76 patients. "These people have suffered enough without having to show financial need," he said. "Need is not a legal requirement for interim awards and any attempt to justify payments on the grounds of need

will be strenuously resisted." Lawyers from 21 local legal firms are filing claims on behalf of patients. The two independent investigations established that the root cause was an error of calculation by a medical physicist responsible for determining the output of radiation from a machine. Mr Stuart Cook and his head of department, Dr Scott Bowring, were dismissed in July but are understood to be appealing that decision.

The two reports are strongly critical of medical and managerial staff at the hospital and contain 27 recommendations, accepted by the authority. One report was by Professor Charles Joslin head of radiology at Leeds University. The other was by a committee headed by Professor Sir Bryan Thwaites, the former chairman of Wessex Health Authority.

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A Manhattan cocktail featuring Gorbymania

From Charles Bremner New York



Manhattan last night braced itself for traffic havoc as President Gorbachov flew in for a working trip that has assumed the trappings of a royal progress and raised anxiety among American officials that they may be about to be outmanoeuvred by the Kremlin leader.

Expectations could hardly have been raised higher for such a hastily arranged trip, which Mr Gorbachov is making ostensibly to address the United Nations and to say goodbye to President Reagan.

While the White House nervously awaited the much-heralded surprise that Mr Gorbachov is expected to unveil today, New York's raucous local press gave in to a bout of "Gorbymania" and

joyous speculation about the chances of a new rift between the "feuding first ladies".

Mrs Raisa Gorbachov is due to attend a lunch along with Mrs Nancy Reagan today at the home of Señora Marcela Pérez de Cuéllar, the wife of the UN Secretary-General. Since the last frosty sessions in Washington and Moscow, Mrs Reagan has gone public with her obvious lack of affection for Mrs Gorbachov, telling the Los Angeles Times six weeks ago that she found her very rude.

To the dismay of the American security team and the chief of the 7,000 police officers detached for the visit, the Russians have still revealed no full itinerary for the three-day stay. The police are dreading the possibility that a

whim could send the 45-car "Gorbocade" careering down Manhattan canyons, sending the island into a condition of "terminal gridlock". He is expected to make stops at such traditional tourist sites as the Metropolitan Museum, Central Park and the World Trade Centre.

While Mr Reagan is apparently happy to see his "friendly opponent" for a fifth and final get-together, Mr Bush is quietly simmering over what his team sees as an attempt by Mr Gorbachov to take his measure before he assumes power. Dr Henry Kissinger has been publicly urging Mr Bush to tell Mr Gorbachov he will accept no summit meetings unless he reveals his ideas in advance. "It's a terrible procedure to have a head of

Continued on page 22, col 5

The Man WATERMAN. The Man Fountain Pen, number 1000. From a wide range of elegant and individual fountain pens, ball and felt-tip pens and pencils, designed and manufactured by Waterman for the pleasure and satisfaction of discerning men. Price: from £10.00 to £20.00.

One child in two believes divorce is only temporary

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The effects of divorce on children — a third of whom lose contact with one parent as an immediate result of separation — are highlighted in research published today.

It shows that children are given little information about their parents' divorces and that nearly half of them thought the separation was only temporary.

Five years after the divorce, one child in six still longed for parents to be reconciled, even when one or both had remarried.

The article by Miss Ann Mitchell, a former research associate at Edinburgh University, in *Family Law*, coincides with the launch today by solicitors and family counsellors of a scheme to help divorcing couples sort out disputes over money, property and children, out of court.

The scheme, to be run by the newly-formed Family Mediators' Association, offers a different approach to divorce settlements in this country. Couples will be able to go together to a specially-trained solicitor and counsellor who will provide a kind of "mediation" package of advice which can then be formalized without the need for lengthy courtroom disputes.

Instead of spouses going to different solicitors, which can create yet more acrimony and even drive couples further apart, the scheme enables them to sort out their problems with the same professional mediators.

Miss Mitchell's research was conducted on the basis of interviews with some 50 children five years after their parents had been divorced.

Three quarters of the children were aged nine to 13 at the time of the separation and mostly were aged 16 to 18 at the time of the interviews.

Most children, she found, had been "deeply upset" by their parents' separation. "One boy told me: 'I felt sick and couldn't get it out of my mind that my father had left. I took a couple of years to get used to it.'"

She also found that all of the 11 custodial fathers interviewed had been shattered by

the ending of their marriages. But the 60 custodial mothers had been twice as likely to have felt relief as distress.

Many of the children had accepted the eventual divorce as an inevitable consequence of the separation. But one in 10 had been shocked to hear about the divorce, which brought home the finality of the separation.

Among other findings are that only one third of the parents said they had given their children any reasons for the separation. One third said no explanation was needed as the reasons were obvious.

She concludes that children are "more distressed by their parents' separation than par-

ents realize". Second, she said that most children would prefer to continue living with both their natural parents, whatever the domestic situation may be.

Third, if parents do split up, most children want to continue a loving relationship with both mother and father.

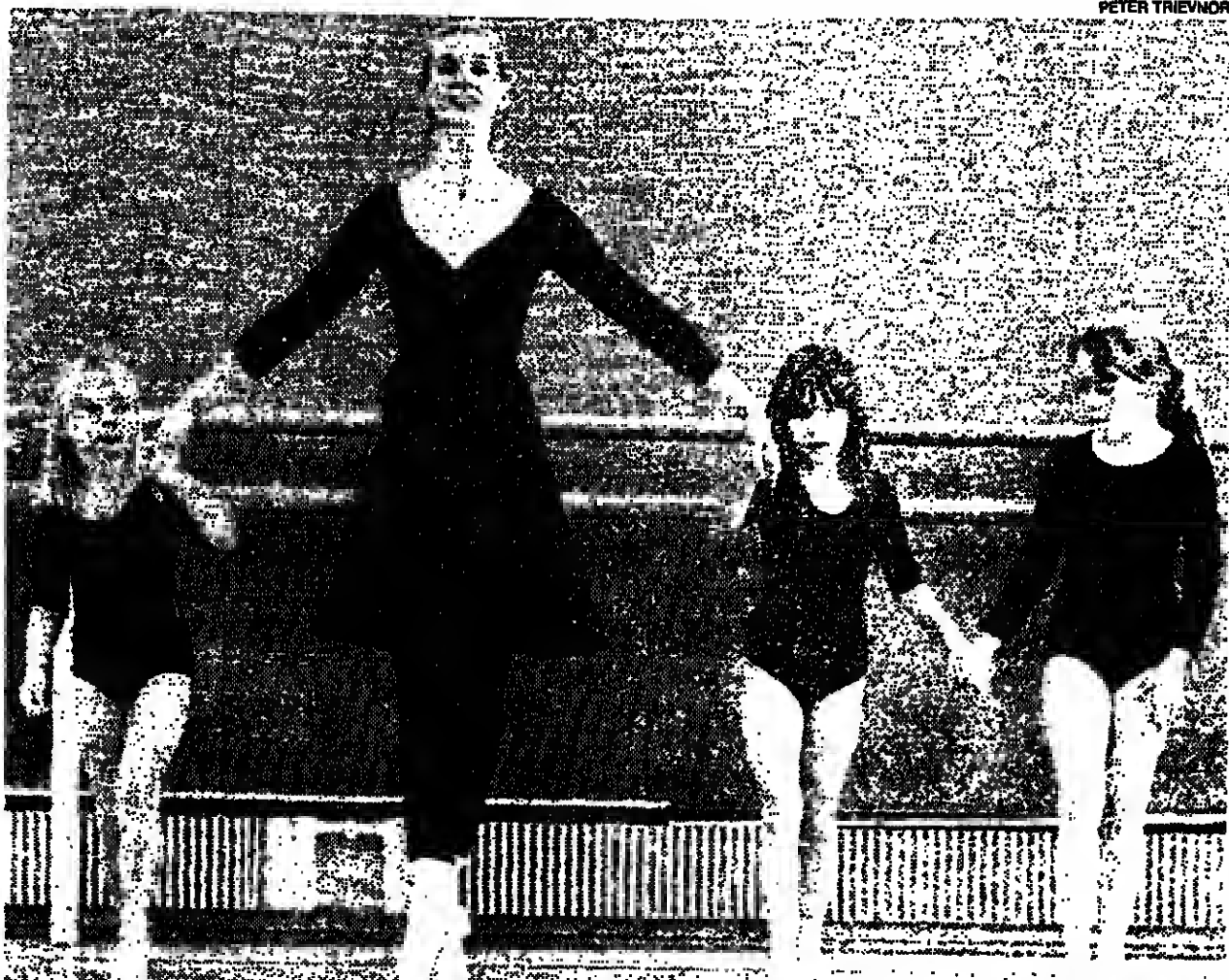
Mrs Lisa Parkinson, director of the new Family Mediators' Association, said: "Increasingly, couples are asking if they can both consult the same solicitor. Many of them fear being drawn further apart if they go to separate solicitors and there is great anxiety about the legal costs they may incur."

But a solicitor, at present, who seeks to provide impartial advice to both parties risks being in breach of professional rules on conflicts of interest, she said. This can be avoided if it is made clear that the lawyer acts as mediator, and not as a solicitor.

The scheme, which will have funding from the Nuffield Foundation, is based on a two-year pilot project that has been run in London by a group of six solicitors and counsellors.

It is now planned under the new association to expand the scheme to train a number of lawyers and other professionals so that mediation can be offered to couples outside London. Interest has been expressed in starting such centres in Plymouth, Cambridge, Liverpool and Sheffield.

Children's introduction to the dance



Mary Goodhew, a member of the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet, dances with Sarah Severn, aged seven, Ganizka Martin, aged seven, and Suzanne Nash, aged nine, from St Mark's Primary School, north London, yesterday at the de Valois studios of the Royal Opera House. They were among pupils from 10 London schools presenting work created during the autumn term with the help of members of the ballet company. Dancers and musicians had visited the schools to introduce the children to all aspects of ballet.

Witness 'lied' in newsboy death case

A man who implicated one of the convicted killers of Carl Bridgewater, the newsboy, told the Court of Appeal in London yesterday that the evidence he had given nine years ago was a lie.

Mr Brian Sinton, aged 31, was reminded at the new appeal inquiry into the case that he had told Stafford Crown Court that Michael Hickey had actually admitted to him in prison that he had shot the boy, aged 13, at Yew Tree Farm.

Miss Anna Worrall, representing Michael Hickey, asked Mr Sinton: "Was that true, or was it a lie?"

Mr Sinton said: "It was a lie."

The confession came on the tenth day of the new appeal ordered by Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, for cousins Michael and Vincent Hickey and James Robinson, all given life sentences in 1979 for murder and aggravated burglary.

Mr Sinton, who has since changed his surname to Barracough and who gave an address in Longwood, West Yorkshire, was asked if he had told the truth at the murder trial at the outset of his evidence.

He then sat through almost two hours of screened and tape-recorded interviews of him in 1986 in which he had retracted what he said in 1979. He was shown at a Central Television news conference and was heard confessing: "I lied. I have had guilty feelings ever since."

He alleged that he had been set up to do it by prison officers and the police.

He was reminded that he had said that he spoke to Michael Hickey in the shower block at Winslow Green prison, Birmingham, when Hickey confessed to the 1978 murder.

Hickey "never admitted once that he killed Carl Bridgewater", Mr Sinton said.

He told Miss Worrall that he had not been bullied or put under any pressure in 1986.

The hearing continues today.

Breast surgery woman fails

Mrs Margaret Lee, who sued a plastic surgeon after cosmetic surgery to her breasts went wrong, won sympathy but no damages in the High Court yesterday.

She was "obsessed with a desire to have the shape of her body altered", Mr Justice Drake said. She had six operations to enlarge her breasts but they have been left scarred and as small as before.

In rejecting her claim for damages against Mr Thomas Cochrane, a Harley Street plastic surgeon, the judge said he had "considerable sympathy" for her. "She is dissatisfied with her body, although many women would envy her figure."

He believed she would have had the operation whatever

the risks involved. "Unhappily everything that could go wrong with this type of surgery did go wrong."

She now sought to recover the £1,000 she paid Mr Cochrane for the operation in April 1982 to put right the "hard, uncomfortable and badly shaped" breasts left by cosmetic surgery in 1967.

She also wanted damages for the pain and suffering she had suffered. "Her mental anguish must have been considerable", the judge said. From an early date the 1982 operation was a failure.

In evidence Mrs Lee, of Beech Road, Westgate, Kent, said she had sought the operation because her breasts had gone a peculiar shape, turned "hard and blue" and the

stitches were rotting. She said she was given a virtual guarantee of success by Mr Cochrane, the judge said. While he did not think she was a deliberately untruthful witness, Mr Cochrane was an impressive witness and he believed him when he said he warned her of the risks.

It had been accepted that Mr Cochrane had carried out the operation with skill. The only dispute was whether he had warned her of the risks.

"She may have persuaded herself that she has a cause of action against Mr Cochrane. It is one that does not exist and her claim fails", he said.

As she left court Mrs Lee said: "I am not lying. I will only talk further to the highest bidder."

Mother 'blamed father for death'

A mother told police that her partner had murdered her daughter aged 16 months, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Christine Mason, aged 21, is alleged to have said: "This is all down to him — he murdered my baby."

Police Insp Mary Tucker said that she saw Miss Mason the day after the child, Doreen Mason, died of a brain haemorrhage. She said Miss Mason stated: "Aston. It is all down to him. He is hitting the baby on Thursday and he kept hitting her back down."

"Oh, God, I have got to talk

to someone — he kept hitting her. She kept falling on to a hard floor and then he was pushing and punching her against the wall. By Friday she was in a coma. I told him she was quiet and not herself."

Mason allegedly went on: "I knew something was wrong with her, but he said the baby was winding us up. I said don't be stupid. How can a baby wind us up? What did he know? This is down to him — he murdered my baby. I just had to tell someone and now I have, I feel better. He broke her leg, you know."

Miss Mason and Mr Aston, aged 23, of Dodington

Grove, Watworth, south London, deny murdering the child on September 13 last year, and deny child cruelty.

Mr Aston is alleged to have told police that Miss Mason mistreated the baby. Det Constable Michael Croft told the court that Mr Aston said: "She kept picking on the baby, being rough with it and pulling it about. I do not think she likes the baby. She smacked her because she would not eat. She hits her for nothing sometimes."

The court was told that Aston denied causing any of the baby's bruises. The hearing continues today.

● A father murdered his baby daughter because he was jealous of the attention given her by his wife, a jury at the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday. Kevin Browne, aged 26, became angry when the child cried or wanted her mother, Mrs Lisa Browne, aged 19. The child died on November 14 last year, aged seven months, from a brain haemorrhage after being violently shaken by her father, it is alleged. Mr Browne, of Kirkham Street, Plumstead, south-east London, pleads not guilty to murder.

The hearing continues today.

Judge gives warning of dangers in secrets laws

By Michael Horswell

The judge who presided over the first *Spycatcher* court hearing spoke out yesterday against the dangers of government legislation in civil laws governing confidentiality.

Mr Justice Scott said that judges should be left alone to develop and reflect what society needed.

Addressing a conference on confidentiality and breach of confidence organized by Essex University School of Law in Colchester, he said govern-

ment interference would inhibit the development of civil law.

He made clear afterwards that he welcomed the *Spycatcher* litigation. He said: "It was important for the opportunity it afforded for a review of the law of confidentiality information and for the clarification of the law produced by the House of Lords' judgments". It was the first time a judge involved in the *Spycatcher* litigation has spoken publicly about it.

Mr Justice Scott held in the

Chancery Division of the High Court last year that the Attorney General was not entitled to injunctions against the *Observer* and the *Guardian* newspapers, which outlined allegations made by Mr Peter Wright, the author, because publication of the book overseas had already caused the damage which the injunctions sought to prevent.

He further held that *The Sunday Times* had been in breach of its duty of confidence when it published the

first extract of its intended serialization. He also refused the Attorney General an injunction restraining future publication of information from security service members.

Yesterday he said: "The law in this area should never be driven into a cul-de-sac. The law of confidentiality must serve the interests of society as it is and not as it was. That requires flexibility and it is for that reason that legislative interference should be kept to a minimum."

Closures 'will cost life at sea'

By Mark Ellis

Britain's coastguards say lives will be lost at sea because of cuts that led to the closure yesterday of one of their busiest stations, covering 40 miles of coastline.

Hartland Point rescue station in north Devon was the first of three earmarked to close. The others, Moray, near Peterhead in north-east Scotland, and Ramsey, the only rescue centre on the Isle of Man, will be shut early next year.

Mr Tom Hoyes, assistant general secretary of the National Union of Civil and Public Servants, which represents Britain's 538 coastguards, said: "Mayday calls will be missed and it is inevitable there will be a situation when lives will be lost."

He said 12 staff from the 160-year-old Devon station were being transferred, some to Swansea in South Wales. Captain Peter Harris, Britain's chief coastguard, said the union's claims were "extremely misleading".

He added: "I would never have recommended the closure if I thought it was going to worsen the situation for mariners."

The Department of Transport said: "There will be no dilution of cover and no detriment to safety. The reason for closing the three rescue centres is advances in technology."

Father gives bomb evidence

The father of Marie Wilson, who was one of 11 killed in the Remembrance Day bombing at Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh, last year, gave evidence at an inquest into the deaths in Enniskillen yesterday.

Mr Gordon Wilson said that he had arrived at the cenotaph with his daughter just before 10.40am. "I was standing with my back against the wall of the old school building. I just said good morning to some people I knew and asked Marie if she had a good view."

"I heard a loud explosion. I was blown forward and covered under rubble. My daughter was beside me holding my hand. We had a short conversation. After a short period, I was pulled from the rubble and conveyed to hospital by police car."

Mr Wilson said he was treated for a dislocated collar bone, bruising, grazing, cuts and shock. He was told then that his daughter had died as a

result of her injuries. He said: "I would say it was a miracle that there were not more people killed."

The hearing was told that Miss Wilson, aged 20, a trainee nurse at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, had returned to her home to accompany her father to the service.

Mr James Rodgers, the coroner, described the IRA bombers as cruel cowards who had shown total disregard for human life. He said: "The sheer brutality of this heinous crime was both cowardly and indiscriminate in its nature. It sent shock waves not only through the local community but around the world. One is overtaken by a sense of outrage."

Mr Rodgers, the Armagh coroner, was standing in for Mr Rainey Hanna, the local coroner, who excused himself on the grounds that he knew all of those who died.

Earlier, the hearing was told that the Provisional IRA

bomb contained between 10kg and 20kg of explosives and was probably home made.

Det Chief Insp John Allerton said the bomb went off inside an old school house. The bomb was big enough to blow out the gable wall of the reading rooms behind which it was placed and to bring it crashing down onto civilians on the pavement.

Pathologists' reports showed all the dead had suffered multiple injuries and crush asphyxia. The jury returned formal findings that all 11 died from multiple injuries inflicted by the bomb.

The dead were: William Mullan, aged 73; his wife, Nessie, aged 70; Willie Armstrong, aged 63; his wife, Bertha, aged 53; Kili Johnston, aged 70; his wife, Jessie, aged 70; Miss Wilson; Edward Armstrong, aged 52, an RUC officer; Samuel Gault, aged 49; Mrs Georgina Quinton, aged 72; and John Megaw, aged 68.

Doctor guilty of misconduct

A doctor who refused to visit a boy aged three months who later died in hospital was yesterday found guilty of serious professional misconduct.

Dr Hemendra Pandya, aged 43, of Coventry, failed to visit Richard Wolstenholme, who was in his care because he was too busy, a disciplinary hearing was told. The child died eight days later of dehydration.

The professional conduct committee of the General

Medical Council issued a severe warning to him after ruling he had "seriously disregarded his professional responsibilities", but decided he should be allowed to continue working as a GP.

Sir Henry Yellowlees, the committee chairman, told Dr Pandya that it accepted the case was an isolated failure.

Richard, of Stoke Aldermoor, Coventry, had been suffering from sickness and diarrhoea for weeks and had

been visited at home by Dr Pandya, but on December 23, 1986, when the boy's condition deteriorated, Dr Pandya, a father of two, would only telephone a repeat prescription through to the nearest chemist.

Finally, on Christmas Eve, after another unsuccessful attempt to get Dr Pandya to visit, the baby's father took him to Walsgrave Hospital where he died on New Year's Day.

'Intelligent home' sets task for British firms

By Robert Matthews Technology Correspondent

British consumer electronics companies will be told today that they are on the verge of one of the biggest boom markets in decades, triggered by the advent of the "intelligent home".

A number of UK electronics companies are already working on the development of the equipment needed for the automated home in which heating, lighting and electrical appliances are all controlled by a computer.

According to a report by the National Economic Development Office and RMDP, the consultancy company, to be discussed at a conference in London today, the market for a host of such domestic gadgetry is about to open.

"Home automation is going to provide one of the largest new markets ever for goods and services", the report says.

A British electronics company, Thorn EMI, is leading a group of European companies in a project designed to produce compatible standards to ensure that equipment bought from one manufacturer will operate with that of any other. The move is seen as crucial to the development of a large enough market to fight off the expected threat of imported technology from Japan, where the big electronics companies have already reached agreement on standards.

However, fears exist that there are too few engineers in the UK with the technical skills to install and repair the sophisticated equipment.

Mr David Gann, a researcher in

building technology at the Science Policy Research Unit of Sussex University, will tell the conference that more attention must be paid to training engineers. "If the market really does grow, there will be problems. There already is a problem with 'intelligent offices'."

He is also concerned that the notoriously low-tech construction industry may not be able to cope with the demands of building homes containing the high-tech equipment. He said construction companies must collaborate with the electronics companies. Japanese construction companies were already arriving in force in the UK and had an enviable record.

Automating the Home. A Guide to the Opportunities for British Companies (RMDP, Ship Street, Brighton; £95).

DIAMOND SERVICE

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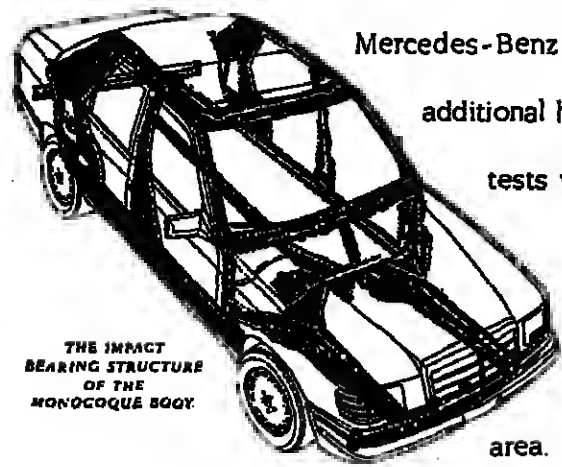
HEATHROW-LIVERPOOL		LIVERPOOL-HEATHROW	
08.30	09.20	07.05	07.55
11.30	12.20	10.10	11.00
14.15	15.05	12.50	13.40
17.00	17.50	15.40	16.30
20.00	20.50	18.40	19.30

*Monday's depart 06.45 arrive 07.25. For further information ask your travel agent or call: 01-589 5599 or 051-494 0200.



BRITISH MIDLAND

Although government legislation requires all car manufacturers to test for 100% head-on collision,



THE IMPACT BEARING STRUCTURE OF THE MONOCOQUE BODY

Mercedes-Benz also carry out additional head-on collision tests when the impact is concentrated on 40% of the car's frontal area. In Germany for

example, research has shown this accident happens three times more frequently than 100% head-on collisions. As a result, all Mercedes-Benz safety cells and crumple zones are now engineered to disperse the unique stresses of both types of collision. Which means impact energy is absorbed progressively and displaced into forked longitudinal members mounted onto extremely rigid sidewall, floor pan and transmission tunnel structures. The energy is therefore dissipated by being transmitted and absorbed in three different directions.

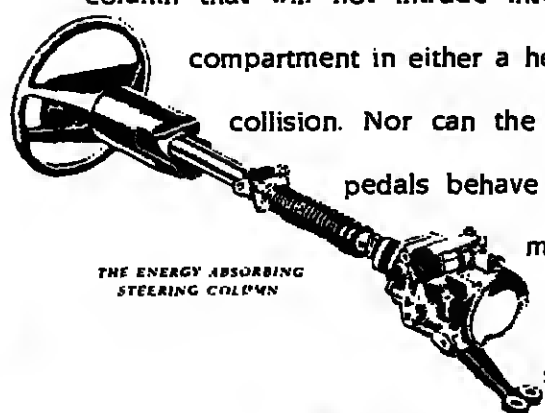
This is a fine example of Mercedes-Benz research and engineering taking the lead in safety development.

A CRASH TEST EVERY THREE DAYS

Mercedes-Benz conduct a crash test every three days, on average. Because safety research is an integral part of the Mercedes-Benz design process, many tests are conducted on components and prototypes prior to full scale production of a new model.

Consequently, the safety development team are well placed to impose their priorities on the fundamental design of a car. Today's Mercedes-Benz models are the most thoroughly tested and safest the company have ever built.

The Mercedes-Benz safety steering system, as an example, is fitted with a distorting cup within the steering wheel, and a collapsible, corrugated column that will not intrude into the passenger compartment in either a head-on or off-set collision. Nor can the clutch or brake pedals behave like blunt instruments. Because of the likelihood of severe accident injuries to the feet, the pedals are designed to swing away from the driver on impact.



THE ENERGY ABSORBING STEERING COLUMN

THE FATHERS OF AUTOMOTIVE SAFETY

The history of Mercedes-Benz safety consciousness dates from 1931 when they developed independent front suspension to ensure safer roadholding. And as long as thirty-seven years ago, long before 'crumple zone' and 'safety cell' became part of car industry jargon, Mercedes-Benz patented the first impact-absorbing body shell. But rather than protect the patent in their own

Mercedes-Benz design their cars for the accident that happens most

interests, Mercedes-Benz allowed it to be infringed in everybody's interests, so other car makers could incorporate the idea into their own body designs. A gesture that speaks for itself.

In 1959, Mercedes-Benz became the first manufacturer to systematically crash test and roll-over test their cars. In that year, 80 were destroyed in

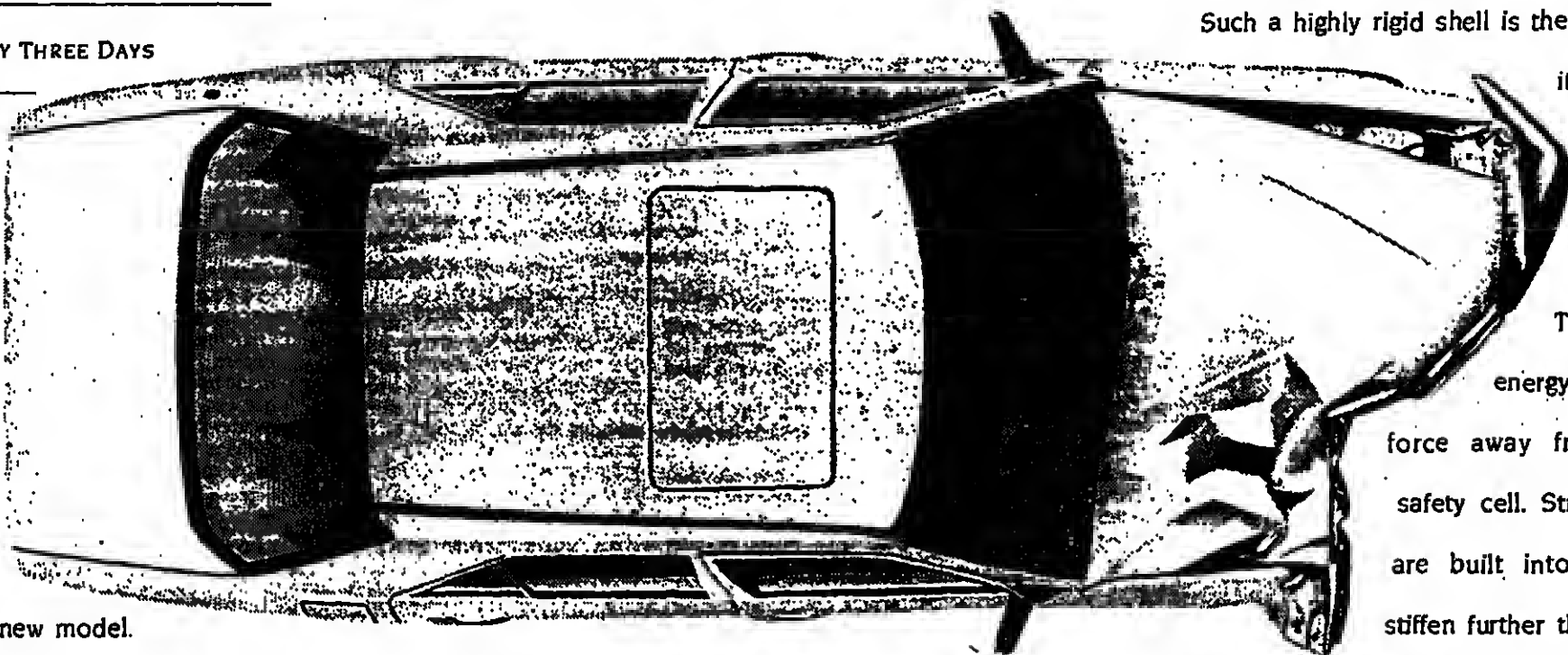


SCIENTIFIC CRASH TESTING CIRCA 1959

the search for greater passenger security. Since then, no car maker has placed greater emphasis on crash testing, and many others reap the benefits simply by adopting the results of Mercedes-Benz pioneering research.

STATE OF THE ART SAFETY CELL

Computer-aided engineering, combined with extensive use of high strength, low-alloy steel, ensures that Mercedes-Benz monocoque body shells are not only light, but are also outstandingly strong. Such a highly rigid shell is the basic safety element,



its front and rear sections designed to yield progressively in major accidents. They absorb kinetic energy and divert the full force away from the passenger safety cell. Strong cross-members are built into the floor pan to stiffen further the safety cell's resistance to side impact. Additional single section roof frame cross-members enhance the total load bearing capacity of the roof. In front, side and roll-over impacts.

HOW THE USE OF AIR CAN REDUCE INJURY RISK

All inertia-reel safety belts fitted to the front seats of Mercedes-Benz cars, have electronic belt tensioners as standard. Above a predetermined level of impact, the tensioner is activated and pulls the belt taut around the body in milliseconds, reducing forward movement of driver and front seat passenger. Above certain speeds, however, impact injuries can still occur no matter how sophisticated the seat belts are.



FROM IMPACT SIGNAL TO INFLATION IN 23 MILLISECONDS

Therefore, Mercedes-Benz also offer an electronically controlled airbag that is neatly stowed in the steering wheel hub. This innovative safety feature has been available since 1981 and is already fitted to 400,000 Mercedes-Benz cars. A normally invisible guardian, it inflates in milliseconds, under impact, to cushion the driver's head and greatly reduce the risk of chest injuries. Further proof that the Mercedes-Benz commitment to safety is uncompromising, and continues unabated.



ENGINEERED LIKE NO OTHER CAR IN THE WORLD.

Lord The dam our carri Guilt the I shat one i sent has i whic the wrol whic been Es guis! McC Bar "vas puni com lack just remc Tt pris H Port Befo Lorc don and [Spe An e for cont cons regu in re and of A (SI l ing l seco agn an a Antl the Cou and Tim 449) appi Rict R Reg ning be i cert ing. 14(1 the i whic lited or k con: M Mr Port the Jolu L Mr insti eric Tha

Coal-fir cost less
Muslims pr
Baker accus science loop
Getty's med texts fetch £

Hinkley Point inquiry

Coal-fired station would cost less, admits board

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

The Central Electricity Generating Board has admitted that it would be cheaper to build a new coal-fired power station than the proposed nuclear plant at Hinkley Point in Somerset under the terms of a privatized electricity supply industry.

The admission comes in a special report prepared for the public inquiry into plans to build a £1.5 billion pressurized water reactor (PWR) at Hinkley Point.

In the past nuclear power station projects have been cushioned against competition by a calculation of the cost of electricity they produced using a 5 per cent return on capital investment.

The new report comparing coal and nuclear costs was requested by Mr Michael Barnes, QC, inspector to the inquiry. It says the Hinkley 'C' station would be more economic than a coal-fired station at the present 5 per cent rate of return, but it would be "clearly less economic" with an 8 per cent rate likely after privatization.

At a 10 per cent rate the economics of a new nuclear station would be "significantly adverse" against all the alternatives, the report says.

The report underlines the CEB's main argument for Hinkley Point C, which is to meet the future level of fuel diversity, after privatization, set by the Government for about 20 per cent of electricity generation to be met by non-fossil fuels.

The Central Electricity Generating Board, which wants to build the PWR alongside two present nuclear stations at Hinkley, had earlier declined to give evidence on comparative costs between coal and nuclear stations.

The board said such evidence would be unhelpful to the inquiry.

However after numerous submissions from objectors at the inquiry, which is taking place at Cannington, near Bridgwater, Somerset, Mr Barnes asked it to submit a report.

The report was presented yesterday by Lord Silsoe, QC, for the board.

He said the report was presented without prejudice to the board's case. It was not needed for the Secretary of State to reach his decision.

Mr Frank Jenkin, the board's corporate director of strategic planning, said later that the economic advantages of coal over nuclear were marginal.

He emphasized the difficulties of economic forecasting and gave warning of considerable uncertainties over future price rises for coal and a possible movement away from fossil-fuelled generation because of international concern about the greenhouse effect.

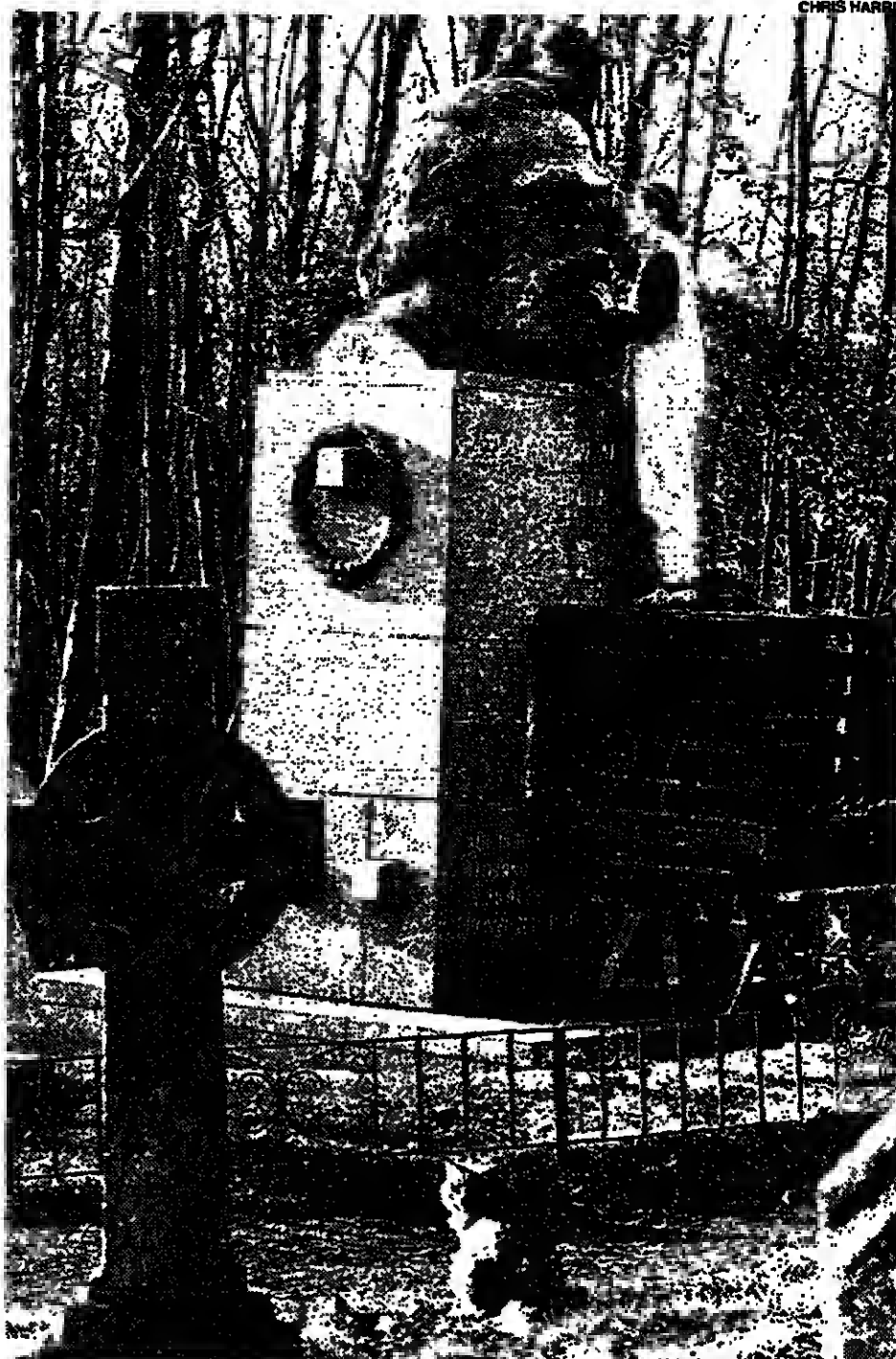
The new evidence, submitted in the form of a memorandum, says there is no single answer to how the economics of a new nuclear power station compare with a new coal-fired power station.

The economic merit of the proposed Hinkley Point C pressurized water reactor compared with the main alternative of a new coal station depends on uncertain factors including future coal prices and the value of the required rate of return on the capital investment, the board says.

There is no single rate of return that has remained unchanged over a long period, and fluctuations are likely to continue.

That confirms figures submitted in evidence to the select committee on energy this year. For a 10 per cent return, a new nuclear station is likely to be more expensive than coal-based options, unless coal prices are sustained at high levels.

Marx gets clean-up but not for Mr G



By Andrew Billen
Arts Correspondent

Television crews and press photographers descended on Highgate Cemetery yesterday morning in the mistaken belief that the Karl Marx memorial was being tidied up in readiness for inspection by President Gorbachov, who is visiting Britain next week.

Mr Christopher Clarke and Miss Simone Boux, restoration and conservation students from the City and Guilds of London Art School, were cleaning Marx's bushy head.

However, Mrs Jean Pateman, chairman of the Friends of Highgate Cemetery, said that no request had been received from the President to visit the resting place of his nation's ideological founder.

"When there was talk of Mr G coming last time, we had detectives from No 10 around there for a week. We would certainly know about it", she said.

Marx's tombstone, in fact, is only one of several that are being worked on by Mr Nick Durman's students. It needs attention because of a recent attack by vandals, who covered parts of the head with paint.

Mr Durman, who teaches the three-year course, said his students had found traces of past vandalism in the form of red, blue and white paint underneath. "In the end we found the only sure way of getting it all off was to use a scalpel", he said.

They had replaced the tombstone's fading bronzed lettering with £40 of gold leaf, so that yesterday the exhortation that ends the *Communist Manifesto*, translated in Highgate as "Workers of all lands unite", gleamed in the sun.

Urgent work is being undertaken on other tombs.

The cemetery, which is owned and run by charity, is still in use as a burial ground.

Miss Simone Boux face to face with Marx yesterday in Highgate Cemetery, north London.

Muslims protest at school decision

By Douglas Broom
Education Reporter

Islamic activists in Batley, West Yorkshire, last night threatened to lay siege to the local town hall in protest at a decision to refuse to allow a private Muslim girls school to join the state system.

Community leaders said that more than 1,000 people would join the protest outside Huddersfield Town Hall next Wednesday in an attempt to persuade Kirklees Borough Council not to ratify the decision of its education committee.

The council, which earlier this year

settled another school dispute with racial overtones by allowing parents at Dewsbury to send children to the schools of their choice, has a strong commitment to racial equality.

At a private meeting two weeks ago the education committee decided to recommend the full council not to approve an application from the 127-pupil Zakaria Muslim Girls High School for voluntary aided status, similar to that enjoyed by Christian and Jewish schools within the state system.

The committee decided that the Zakaria, which is officially recognized as

an independent school by the Department of Education and Science, was too small to join the state sector.

It also said giving the school voluntary aided status, which would entitle it to financial support from the council, would place undue strain on council funds when there were already adequate school places in the area.

The final decision on status will be made by Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education and Science. Muslim leaders decided to approach Mr Baker directly if the council upheld the committee's decision.

Baker accused of science loophole

By Our Education Reporter

The Engineering Council yesterday accused Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, of creating a "loophole" in the national curriculum by insisting that some pupils should spend less time studying science than others.

The council's new director general, Mr Denis Filer, a former senior executive of ICI, said that plans to allow schools the choice of whether to devote 20 per cent or 12.5 per cent of their timetables to science teaching flew in the face of the national curriculum's underlying policy of "science for all".

The National Curriculum Council said on Monday that although it believed that science teaching should occupy 20 per cent of curriculum time it had bowed to pressure from Mr Baker to let schools opt for 12.5 per cent.

Mr Baker was in the audience at a conference in London on Science in the Sixth Form when Mr Filer suggested that the "shorter course" plan might be a way of getting round teacher shortages.

Devoting just 12.5 per cent of curriculum time was "not acceptable for the teaching of balanced science", Mr Filer said. The Engineering Council had campaigned for a 20 per cent time allocation because it believed the country needed "a broad and balanced science curriculum".

The minister also faced outspoken criticism from

other speakers. Professor Dick West, of the Open University, asked why he wanted some pupils to get "a second class science education".

Mr Graham Hill, a deputy headmaster and chairman of the Association for Science Education, said that pupils who spent only 12.5 per cent of their time on science would not be able to cope with A levels.

Mr Baker, who has yet to make his formal response to the council, later issued a strong reply to his critics in a letter to Mr Jack Straw, Labour frontbench spokesman on education.

"There is no argument about the fact that the majority of pupils should be encouraged to take the full 20 per cent programme", Mr Baker said.

"But we must be prepared to allow some flexibility at this stage for a minority of pupils whose time would be better spent developing a special talent in, say, languages.

"We must safeguard against pupils taking the 12.5 per cent course as a soft option and cutting themselves off too early from the possibility of studying science beyond 16."

Mr Baker said the National Curriculum Council had endorsed his view that requiring all pupils to study science for 20 per cent of the timetable would be "too rigid". The suggestion that the 12.5 per cent option was meant to cope with teacher shortages was "without foundation".

Getty's medieval texts fetch £2.5m

The Getty Museum raised £2.5 million from the sale of eight important medieval manuscripts at Sotheby's, London, yesterday, a respectable total for what was a clearance of excess stock, although not far above estimate.

The manuscripts had been bought by the museum in 1983 as part of the Ludwig Collection of 144 manuscripts, and were disposed of because they were unilluminated, and deemed outside the scope of the collection.

All four top lots were bought by a partnership of Quaritch, the London dealers, and HP Kraus, of New York.

They included, at £638,000, the Canoes Conclitorium, a collection of texts on the law and history of the early Christian church written by a scribe from Ireland or Northumberland in the eighth century. It was probably the oldest European book to appear at auction for more than 50 years.

The entire corpus of scientific work on chronology and the nature and structure of the Earth by the great Anglo-Saxon polymath, Bede, fetched £616,000.

The highest price in the general sale was £220,000 (within estimate) for the Mississippi Codex. Written on papyrus in the third century, it includes the Book of Jonah in

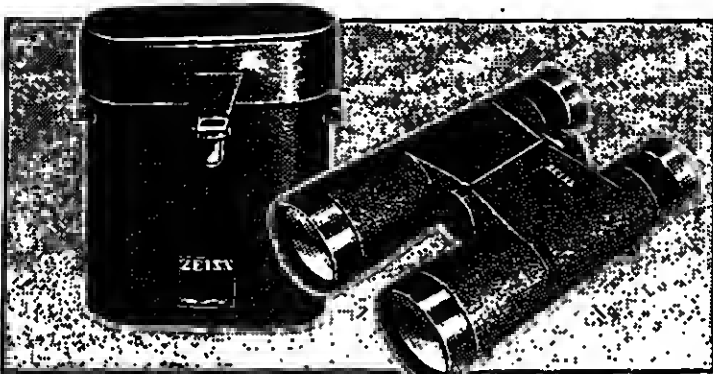
SALEROOM
by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market
Correspondent

the Sahidic dialect of Coptic, and the first Epistle of St Peter. Amid continuing controversy about whether churches and cathedrals should sell their treasures, the diocese of Peterborough became £170,000 richer yesterday, when it sold an important terracotta bust by Michael Rysbrack at Christie's London.

It was bought for stock by the London dealers, Hazlitt Gooden & Fox. The sale, which was the first of a working model by the artist, came about after permission was given by the Church Commissioners.

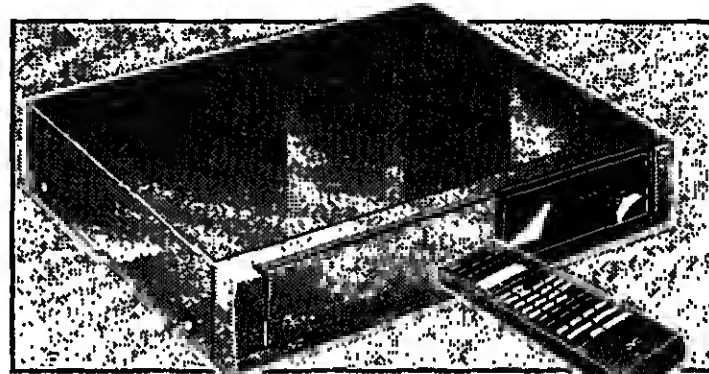
It is the model for the marble monument to John Palmer, Archdeacon of Northampton, which remains in the church of Ecton.

Two bronzes by Antonio Susini cast from a model by the sixteenth century Italian sculptor, Giambologna, fetched joint top price of £440,000. Both were bought by the same anonymous buyer. There were joint records of £42,900 for two busts by Joseph Nollekens.



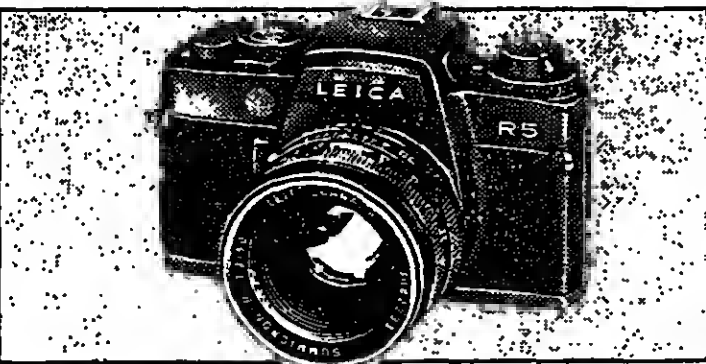
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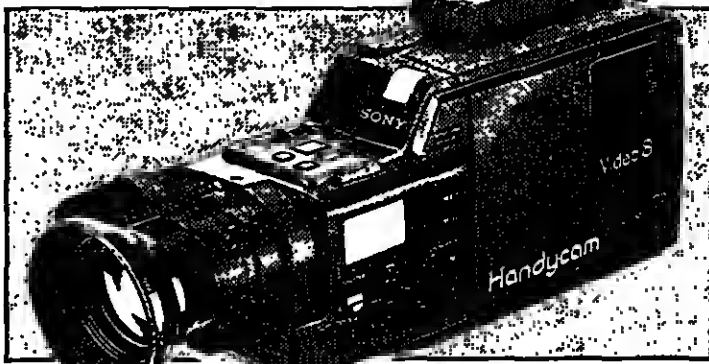
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Model: HR 5500EK. Wallace Heaton Price **£999.99**



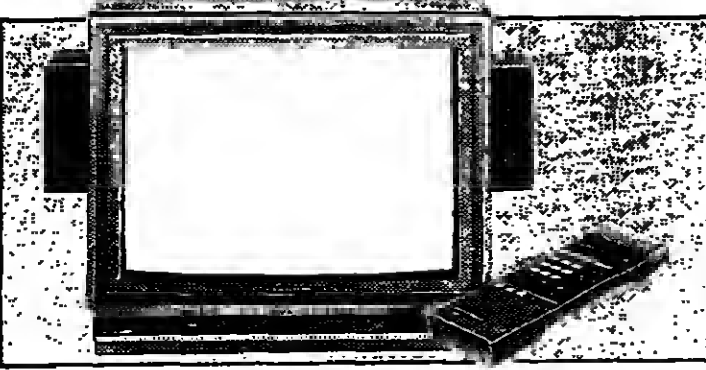
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Model: CCD V90. Wallace Heaton Price **£1499**



GRUNDIG 32" Multisystem FST Teletext TV
Supersize screen (76cm) with full-feature infra-red remote control and 50 watts per channel high fidelity stereo sound from swivel-mounted speakers. Model: M82.

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Hospital's mistakes and miscalculations listed

Radiation error put lives of up to 10 patients in danger

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

Mistakes and miscalculations by doctors and health officials compounded the mathematical blunder which caused more than 200 cancer patients to receive overdoses of radiation, according to investigations into the "unprecedented" accident at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

Reports of two independent investigations published yesterday said that severe radiation had endangered the lives of up to 10 patients while another 40 were at high risk of serious complications. A further 20 were at moderate risk of developing related side effects.

Seventy-eight of the patients have died since receiving the overdoses between February and July of this year. However, Professor Charles Joslin, of Leeds University, said in his report that they were all in the terminal stages of cancer and their deaths could not be attributed to the accident.

The other report by a committee chaired by Sir Bryan Thwaites, the former chairman of Wessex Health Authority, is strongly critical of medical and managerial staff involved in the affair and recommends 21 changes or improvements in hospital procedures.

Mr Murray French, the chairman of Exeter Health Authority, said yesterday all the recommendations had been accepted and changes made. He said the authority was now preparing to pay damages to victims of the accident and their relatives.

Lawyers representing 76 families, including 10 who have lost a relative, said



Mr Stuart Cook: "At least careless, at worst negligent".

yesterday they were seeking substantial interim damages. The incident began on February 12 when Mr Stuart Cook, a medical physicist, wrongly calculated the output of radiation from a radiotherapy machine at the hospital.

The machine had received a new piece of radioactive cobalt and the effect of Mr Cook's error was that all patients being treated on it received up to 25 per cent more radiation than intended. Towards the end of May, nursing staff began to suspect that some patients were not healing as rapidly as would normally be expected. But from then until mid July the cause remained undetected.

It was only discovered by chance when the hospital agreed to take part in a survey of radiology equipment organized by the Institute of Physical Sciences in Medicine. On July 12 the machine's output was measured for the purpose of the survey and the error of February 12 was identified.

Use of the machine was suspended the following day and a list of 205 patients was

compiled. But through confusion and disagreement among consultants over who had actually received treatment a total of only 153 patients was reported to the hospital management.

A standard letter was sent on July 25 to surviving patients among this number, but the next of kin of dead patients were not contacted by the hospital.

Through a "precipitate and unwise" decision the regional health authority held a press conference on July 22 to give details of the accident.

"The chief consequence was that the first intimation that many patients had of their overdose was through the press or television. This caused much distress to patients and to bereaved relatives and has been expressed strongly in many of the letters received by the inquiry", the Thwaites report said.

Not until mid October was it realized that other patients in addition to the 153 on the list had received treatment. A fresh examination of appointments for radiotherapy showed 54 others were involved. Some of those were not contacted until the end of October.

Of this phase the report said: "The ensuing investigations threw up a highly unsatisfactory state of affairs. Given the potential danger to patients who had received an overdose the management should have satisfied itself more thoroughly as to the number of patients involved."

"It is regrettable that the need for any patient to be told of mistreatment appears not to have had a high priority in the minds of managers and clinicians", the report said.

It said that Mr Cook was "at least careless and at the worst negligent" in making the original error. His calculation was not checked by a senior physicist or the head of his department, contravening both an "unwritten policy" and standards dictated "by prudence or self defence".

When on July 4 Mr Cook rechecked his calculation he "incomprehensibly" failed to notice his error.

The Thwaites report said that the ideal reaction of the hospital to such an accident should have been "discreet, deliberate and above all speedy and in the best interests of the patients".

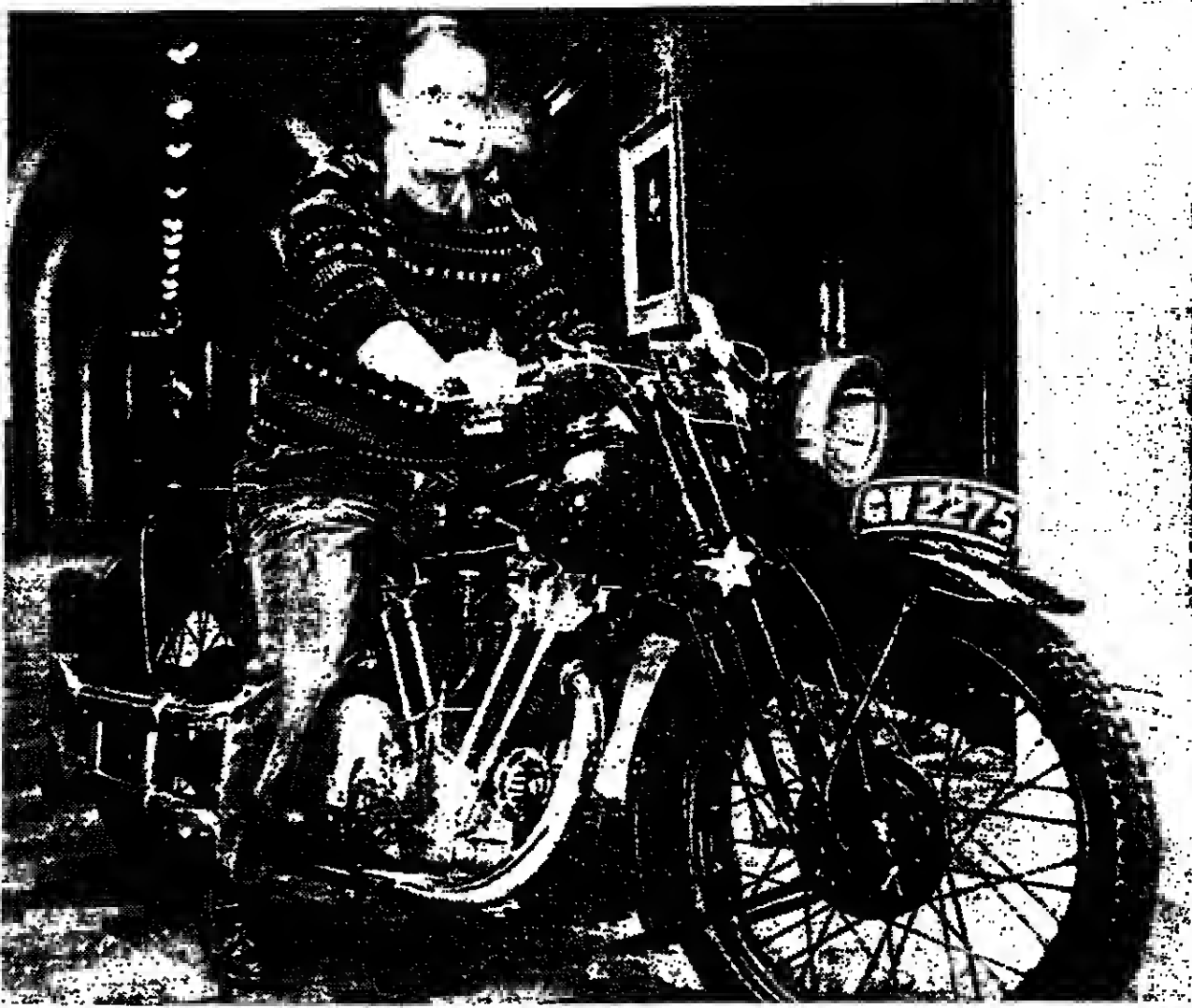
In his report Professor Joslin, a leading radiologist, said some of the patients faced late reactions which would occur months or years after their overdose. Ten were at very high risk of severe radiation damage "which might be life threatening in a few". Two patients in this category are known to have died.

He said 40 others were at high risk of suffering damage which would be severe in some cases but not expected to be life threatening. Two of these patients are also known to have died.

Of the total of 78 deaths, all patients had either locally advanced cancer, recurrent cancer or widespread disease and all but four had been receiving treatment essentially to lessen the severity of the cancer rather than cure it.

"The patients at highest risk will require careful and regular clinical assessment. Mr Cook and his head of department, Dr C.S. Bowring, were dismissed by the health authority in July but are understood to be appealing.

The life and death of a British hero



Mr Robba Gibson, curator of the twentieth-century section of the National Portrait Gallery, wheeling out the Brough Superior SS100 motor cycle on which T.E. Lawrence (inset) had his fatal accident in May 1935. The machine is part of a comprehensive exhibition of his life and achievements which opens at the gallery on Friday. This year is the centenary of Lawrence's birth.

'US empire' has ended, says Powell

By Richard Ford
Political Correspondent

Mr Enoch Powell last night said that changes in the Soviet Union meant there was no longer a rational explanation for the stationing of American troops in western Europe.

He said the collapse of the twin pillars of the American empire presented the states of

Europe with the opportunity to create a new structure in which the future pattern of central Europe could develop without threatening disaster for the rest of the continent and the world.

Mr Powell, speaking six days before President Gorbachov arrives on an official visit to Britain, said developments had taken place

which had changed the beliefs of many people in European countries.

He told the Chester Business Club that the states of Europe knew that neither Russia nor America seriously believed in nuclear deterrence, after the signing of the INF agreement.

Mr Powell said the American empire had been based on

the belief that the Soviet Union was bent on conquering western Europe. That had allowed British Treasury ministers to halve the proportion of the national income spent on the Armed Forces.

The collapse of the American empire had undermined the desirability of political and military unification in western Europe.

Health care budgets for GPs

Crucial vote on pilot study

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

A pilot study to give family doctors budgets to buy hospital care for their patients could be in jeopardy if GPs fail to give it the go-ahead tomorrow.

The study, at a group practice in Talsgarth, Powys, may pave the way for reform in the National Health Service if it gets off the ground.

However, there has been considerable opposition by some GPs in the area who see the scheme as a cost-cutting measure designed to restrict clinical freedom.

Powys local medical committee (LMC), which has 21 members and which represents all GPs in the area, will decide tomorrow whether to give approval to the first phase of the scheme — a feasibility study to assess costs and referral rates.

Although the four doctors who have volunteered would still be able to go ahead with the scheme, one of the GPs has already said that he would opt to withdraw if the LMC

vetted the plan. The British Medical Association's GP committee has backed the scheme but Dr Bryn John, its chairman, said yesterday that he could not advise the study to proceed without the LMC backing. "If we cannot get approval from GPs locally, what hope do we have for the rest of the country?"

The idea of letting GPs hold the purse strings for primary and hospital care has now emerged as the central plank in the Prime Minister's review of the health service and has firm backing from Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health.

Money would travel with the patient through the system and GPs would negotiate contracts with hospital doctors to treat their patients. Consultants attracting the most patients would attract the most money.

The Powys practice involves both the chairman and secretary of the local medical committee — Dr Derek Wil-

son and Dr Len Harvey — giving it a greater chance of support tomorrow.

Dr John hopes that giving GPs budgets could result in allowing them greater access to diagnostic procedures such as X-rays and pathology tests. If GPs were able to refer patients directly for tests instead of through a consultant, time and expense could be saved, he said yesterday.

However, he argued that there would be more administrative work involved, some GPs would be better managers than others, and there could be restrictions on referral patterns.

Dr Harvey, who said that he would withdraw from the scheme if it was not approved tomorrow, was sceptical about how politicians would interpret the results. "Powys is a very different district from anywhere else in Wales or the United Kingdom. Ministers cannot say this is what happens in Powys so you have to do that everywhere else."

Thatcher to seek more inner city aid

By Our Public Administration Correspondent

The Prime Minister will later this week open a new area in what she considers a personal crusade to regenerate the inner cities by stimulating greater business involvement.

In what will be her first important speech on the inner cities for several months, she will tell the annual meeting of the Per Cent Club — a group of large firms that have committed half a per cent of pre-tax profits to community and charitable projects — that it is not enough for big business to answer the call of conscience.

Medium-size firms must get involved, too, she will say. She will appeal for such firms to follow the lead of the club.

The Per Cent Club itself is likely to be urged to expand to include smaller firms, along lines suggested recently by Sir Hector Laing, its joint chair-

man. He told a conference organized by Business in the Community last month that its membership of 170 companies should be increased to 500 within two years.

In addition Sir Hector said that corporate donations should be increased to 1 per cent of pre-tax profits and Mrs Thatcher may pick up that theme.

Business in the Community — an inner city charity of which Sir Hector is chairman — takes the line that the best way of getting businessmen to do more for charity and the community is to establish "role models", corporate leaders who, in the words of Mr Robert Davies, deputy chief executive of BIC, become "a potent symbol in mobilizing a sense of needing to be involved".

Juryman had prison record

A man with a string of convictions was removed from a jury panel at the Central Criminal Court yesterday when his record was discovered by chance, it has emerged.

An investigation is under way into how the man was selected. Anyone who has served a period of imprisonment, youth detention or who has been given a suspended sentence or community service order during the previous 10 years is disqualified.

The juror, aged 26 and from Essex, has a record for offences of dishonesty and his last conviction led to a six-month sentence for burglary. Mr Justice Turner discharged him from service. The man said that when he returned his jury summons he had given details of his convictions.

Churchill's threat of poison gas

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

A former head of British scientific intelligence has written about the day he helped to dissuade Winston Churchill from using poison gas against the Germans during the Second World War.

Professor Reginald Jones, who also served in the 1950s in the Cabinet Office's Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC), has disclosed that he was present at the War Cabinet's Crossbow committee on July 18, 1944.

Professor Jones, assistant director of intelligence at the beginning of the war, was responsible for monitoring "novel weapons" being considered by the Germans. In 1940

he had been "asked by MI6" to produce a report listing all the novel weapons "however far-fetched" that had come to the surface in intelligence files.

Professor Jones, writing in a journal called *Intelligence and National Security*, says: "The motive was primarily to ensure that whatever new weapons did in fact appear, Churchill could not afterwards reproach the intelligence services for not having warned him".

He "surprised" Churchill at the War Cabinet committee meeting in 1944 by telling him of his conclusions that the Germans must have built at least a thousand V2 rockets.

Professor Jones, now aged 77 and emeritus professor of Natural Philosophy at Aberdeen University writes: "Angry both with me and with the Germans, he mooted the proposal that we should attempt to deter them by threatening to use poison gas if they hatched the rocket... None present supported him."

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Gorbachov steps into capitalist jungle's ills and thrills



Mayor Koch: An offer to dip the accused in hot oil.

From Charles Bremner
New York

For a three-day course in post-modern capitalism, President Gorbachov could not have come to New York at a better time.

If he looks beyond the seasonal trappings, like the premature Santas on Fifth Avenue and the dazzling Christmas tree in Rockefeller Centre, he might even think about reviving some of those old clichés about the inevitable collapse of the imperialist state. But he might also diagnose some ills that are all too familiar from home.

His reading will have told him that New York is a show that never stops, a city that has always teetered excitedly on the brink of chaos. And any Russian expects to find a heavy dose of squalor on the streets of Gotham. Since the local militia do not round up Manhattan's regiment of beggars before state visits, he can confirm every-

thing they say about the losers in the capitalist jungle.

He might also learn about ingenuity, since begging is a competitive business here. In Moscow, there are no mendicants capable of such approaches as: "I am an alien who needs cash for spaceship fuel to return to my planet."

But the other end of the dialectic will be supplied by a glimpse of the masses getting and spending in the full blaze of the Christmas spirit. This is the glittering landscape that Mayor Edward Koch says he wanted to show the Kremlin leader, and "once he sees it, he won't want to go home again". That may not be the case, but 100,000 former Soviet citizens have decided to stay put in New York over the past decade or so.

The many who drive taxis delight in preaching the joys of life in a city where you can do almost anything. That was what Mr Donald Trump wanted to explain

to Mr Gorbachov before nervous Soviet officials called off plans for a visit to the billionaire property developer's Fifth Avenue tower.

Perhaps they had just heard the news that Mr Trump has slipped from his rank as the top symbol of unbridled excess. His mantle was snatched last week by Mr Henry Kravis, the emperor of the takeover. Mr Kravis, aged 44, entered the record books by buying the RJR Nabisco food and tobacco company for \$25 billion (£14.7 billion), almost doubling the highest previous take-over price.

But for a real education on the darker side of New York in the roaring 1980s, Mr Gorbachov might take a look at one or two moral dramas unfolding in the city. For example, if he turns on the television, he could watch this month's hottest live show — the cross examination of Miss Hedda Nussbaum.

The city, and much of America,

has been mesmerized by the horrifying testimony of Miss Nussbaum, a children's book editor, in the trial of her common-law husband in a Manhattan court for the murder of their adopted daughter, aged six. Miss Nussbaum says she was held a virtual prisoner for a decade at their Greenwich Village flat by Mr Joel Steinberg, a drug-crazed, Svengali-like lawyer.

On Friday, Miss Nussbaum, deformed from constant beatings, described how her husband left the child to die on the floor while the couple smoked cocaine.

The harrowing account of Mr Steinberg's alleged actions was too much for the self-control of Mayor Koch, who proclaimed on Sunday that he would like to "dip him in hot oil". Everyone is making the point that the Steinberg affair is yet another symptom of a troubled society.

The case is all the more worrying for many because the characters

are middle class, white and Jewish, rather than hailing from the no-man's land of the South Bronx and the other black-dominated districts where the exploding drug trade has pushed up the New York murder rate by 18 per cent this year.

Those districts have themselves produced a riveting new fable this month in the scandal of the school boards. Shortly after a Bronx headmaster was arrested in the act of buying "crack", the potent smokeable derivative of cocaine, the city authorities launched criminal proceedings against the entire district school administration on charges of corruption, theft and activities such as turning board sessions into drug parties.

The television cameras were out to watch police repossess a grand piano fished by one board member from a school. Prosecutors are now looking at two other boards, which are elected bodies, after newspapers reported members' involvement in sex orgies, corruption and mismanagement.

For many old-time lovers of New York, there is nothing wrong with the city itself. It is, they insist, just suffering from the ravages of the drug plague. Putting this view on Monday, Jimmy Breslin, a journalist, said that the Big Apple was entering insanity. "Everything wroog to the city these days is about drugs."

Others are looking for underlying causes that have much in common with the ones Mr Gorbachov is struggling against in Moscow — a loss of values and a prevailing climate of cynicism.

According to the writer, Tom Wolfe, a lover of New York despite his acid satires, the city's troubles stem from America's tremendous prosperity. "We have awarded ourselves the final freedom — freedom from religion and ordinary ethical standards," he said in a recent Harvard address.

Soviet envoy sees historic talks building Afghan peace

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

Mr Yuli Vorontsov, the Kremlin's main international troubleshooter, predicted yesterday that 1989 would be "the year of peace" during which all foreign troops would leave Afghanistan, saying that the newly instituted direct negotiations with the Mujahidin rebels would continue.

Mr Vorontsov, the Soviet Union's First Deputy Foreign Minister and new Ambassador in Kabul, was assessing weekend talks in Saudi Arabia at which a Soviet delegation met rebel representatives for the first time since the 1979 Soviet invasion.

No date has been set for the second round of talks, but they are expected to begin in Pakistan within the next 10 to 15 days.

Asked if the Soviet Union would resume its troop withdrawal to meet the deadline of February 15, 1989, agreed at Geneva, Mr Vorontsov refused to be specific.

But earlier, in a statement released through the official Saudi Press Agency, he was quoted as telling King Fahd that the Kremlin was committed to pulling out all its remaining troops, unofficially estimated at around 50,000 men, "by the agreed date or possibly earlier".

Moscow's willingness to attend the talks with a delegation representing the loose alliance of seven Muslim rebel groups was seen as a further discreet distancing from Kabul's communist Government, although its leader, President Najibullah, officially declared his backing for the meeting in the Saudi mountain resort of Taif.

A statement made by the rebel delegation at the Taif talks gave no sign of any breakthrough, but it, too, hinted at a mood of accommodation and the Mujahidin offered to let withdrawing Soviet troops pass unmolested if they did not attack guerrillas and left Afghanistan as promised by February 15.

The rebels also offered to release all Soviet prisoners in exchange for Mujahidin prisoners, and described the three rounds of talks as having been held in a "calm atmosphere".

Sources close to the talks said that the Afghan rebels had softened their objections to an international peace conference and had promised to study a Soviet proposal on the issue. Their precondition was that Islamic nations, such as Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, should be allowed to participate.

Western observers are amazed at the Kremlin's change of heart in suddenly agreeing to talks with the rebels, but point out that it will take much more flexibility by Moscow if a deal acceptable to the Mujahidin is to be hammered out within the next 10 weeks.

● HAVANA: President Castro of Cuba, speaking four days before the arrival of President Gorbachov, said superpower détente did not ensure peace and security for small Third World countries like Cuba (Reuters reports).

Argentine rebel colonel held

From Michael Llanos
Buenos Aires

The Argentine colonel who led the weekend military of army officers was taken in custody to a military base yesterday, but the rebels remained defiant, saying they did not recognize the Army Chief of Staff and were taking orders from their "commanders" — Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin and a general who negotiated with the rebels.

The Army said Colonel Seineldin was taken yesterday morning from what had been the rebel's stronghold to a loyal Army base. It did not say, though, whether he was under arrest, stating only that he would be "placed at the disposal" of a military judge.

What was clear was that Colonel Seineldin and other rebels were not taking orders from the Army Chief of Staff, General Dante Caridi, but from General Isidro Caceres, who negotiated with the rebels on Sunday to avoid a possible clash between loyal troops and the mutinous officers.

Rebel sources said that under the accord reached with General Caceres, Colonel Seineldin would accept full responsibility for the mutiny and go before a military judge.

President Alfonsín yesterday acknowledged that a "dialogue" between the rebels and loyal forces had taken place, but insisted that the rebels' demands had been rejected outright. He had reaffirmed his support for General Caridi on Sunday, but did not publicly defend the Army chief yesterday. It is increasingly likely the general will be replaced before Christmas as the rebels demand.

The rebels yesterday expressed their defiance of General Caridi in various ways. Major Hugo Arret, who led the occupation of the Army infantry base at Mercedes, 60 miles west of the capital, yesterday said he refused to take orders from General Caridi.

"When a commander fails to fight for the Army's dignity and honour, then he ceases to be a commander," he said.



Colonel Seineldin, right, hugging a fellow rebel officer at Villa Martelli base, Argentina.

Colonel Seineldin's transfer yesterday formalized what rebels termed the "cessation of operations" at what had been their stronghold, the Army munitions base at Villa Martelli, just outside the capital.

Army sources said most of the rebels were allowed to return to their original posts. It was not clear whether these men would be cleared, though Colonel Seineldin was said to have demanded that only he and a few other officers be held

responsible for the mutiny, Argentina's third in less than two years.

The uprising marks the most serious military crisis experienced by Señor Alfonsín's Administration in five years of office. Army officers with similar demands mutinied during Easter week of 1987 and last January.

At the start of the latest mutiny political analysts expected the ruling Radical Party, behind in the presidential race set to conclude in

May, to try to capitalize on the rebellion by urging the public to "defend democracy".

But as the mutiny developed, it was the opposition that made the most of the rebellion.

Opposition leaders were arguing that the public had lost confidence in the Government following statements by

Señor Alfonsín and Vice-President Víctor Martínez that the mutiny had ended, when in fact the men remained armed up to yesterday.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Soldiers injured in Baku clash

Moscow (AP) — Gangs yesterday wounded three soldiers and a medical student in the Azerbaijani capital, Baku, and a curfew was imposed on new regions of Armenia where a sharp rise in ethnic tension was reported.

Baku radio reported that in three districts of the city "extremists and criminal elements provoked disorders on massive scales and attempted to commit acts of looting and other illegal actions". In a report monitored by the BBC, the radio said soldiers on Monday fired warning shots to break up the gangs, adding that "three servicemen and a student of the Institute of Medicine were wounded".

The Armenian capital, Yerevan, was reported to be quiet, and the curfew that has been in effect for two weeks was reduced by two hours. But tension in the areas with a mixed Armenian-Azerbaijani population increased. "In regions of the republic the situation is extraordinarily dangerous. There have been deaths in the Kalining, Masis and Gugark region," *Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya* reported yesterday.

Soviet olive branch

Tokyo — Moscow's ambassador to Japan, Mr Nikolai Soloviev, yesterday held out the possibility of some improvement in his country's strained relations with Japan when Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, visits Tokyo later this month (Joe Joseph writes). He said, diplomatically, that both nations had to respect each other's claims to disputed islands in the Sakhalin group and work instead to improve relations.

Australian anger

Sydney — The Australian Government has described as "totally unjustified" the decision by the Yugoslav Government to expel three diplomats in retaliation for the expulsion from Sydney of Yugoslav consular staff after a shooting incident (Christopher Morris writes). The Foreign Minister, Senator Gareth Evans, said: "The Australian Government will think long and hard when in due course application is made to reopen the Sydney consulate."

Ishaq Khan backed

Islamabad — Miss Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistani Prime Minister, yesterday reached agreement with her political rivals to support the nomination of Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the acting President, in the December 12 election to replace the late President Zia for a five-year term (Hasan Akhtar writes). Miss Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party is to withdraw its candidate, the retired General Tikka Khan, the party secretary-general. There are eight candidates.

General dies in crash

Madrid (AP) — Major-General W. S. Harpe, aged 51, the commander of all US Air Force troops in the Mediterranean, was killed when his single-seat F16 fighter-bomber crashed during a routine training mission from Torrejón air base near Madrid, an Air Force spokesman said yesterday. An investigation is under way into the crash.

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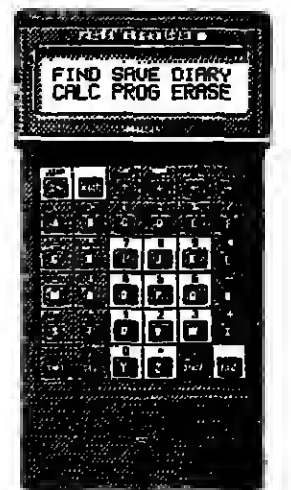
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Peres faces a fierce party battle over coalition with Likud

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

The 1,300 members of the Israeli Labour Party's central committee meet in Tel Aviv tomorrow to vote on whether the party should try again to negotiate a place in a new coalition led by Likud.

It threatens to be a long and stormy meeting and it is far from being a foregone conclusion that it will automatically support the recommendation from Mr Shimon Peres, the party leader, to join a new unit government in the interests of the country.

Mr Peres left an hour-long meeting with President Herzog yesterday morning saying that he would try to overturn last week's vote by the 120-strong Labour Party bureau against forming a coalition with Likud. Mr Peres said he was confident he could carry the day before the much larger central committee.

However, President Herzog yesterday also called in Mr Uzi Baram, Labour's secretary-general, and was given a different answer.

Mr Baram has said ever since it became clear that the November 1 elections had ended in stalemate that Labour should go into opposition rather than tarnish its image

by involvement in a coalition. After his meeting with the President he said that he would support a coalition with Likud but only if it were formed specifically to bring in electoral reform and to block all legislation proposed by the religious parties.

This is far more restrictive than anything suggested yet by Mr Peres although it has a wide measure of support in the Labour Party.

If Mr Peres wins a majority at tomorrow's meeting to open negotiations with Likud he will begin by insisting that promises already made to the religious parties must be shelved and that there should be a moratorium on any attempt to amend the law defining who is a Jew.

Mr Peres said yesterday that the promises made so far to the religious groups by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader, would cost hundreds of millions of dollars at a time when the defence budget was in urgent need of extra money.

The Ministry of Defence has just told the Government that it needs \$4 billion (£2.1 billion) next year if it is to carry out the plan it has worked on for the past two

years to convert the Army into a smaller but better equipped force. The budget would need to be slashed drastically if money had to be found for religious institutions.

This was one reason why the President called yet again for a unity government between Likud and Labour when he granted Mr Shamir another three weeks to try to form a government.

The negotiations so far were "shameful and dangerous" the President said. He reported "an avalanche" of appeals expressing "growing dismay" at the way the large parties were trying to buy the support of the small parties.

Mr Ehud Olmert, a Likud MP, said yesterday that his party faced enormous problems if it tried to settle irreconcilable differences with religious parties. Too many Likud members are prepared to vote against religious legislation for Mr Shamir to be able to give guarantees and he could split Likud if he tries to force the issue.

Mr Shamir is waiting until he knows the outcome of tomorrow's Labour meeting before pressing ahead with coalition negotiations.

Arafat's Stockholm welcome angers Israel

From Christopher Messey, Stockholm

A surprise visit to Stockholm yesterday by Mr Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, for talks with representatives of the American Jewish community aimed at furthering the Middle East peace process, has aroused fury in Israel.

Stockholm's Ambassador in Tel Aviv, Mr Mats Bergqvist, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and informed of the Israeli Government's "dismay" over the Swedish initiative.

Mr Arafat was given the sort of red carpet reception usually reserved for visiting heads of state.

He was welcomed at the airport when he flew in from Cairo by the Foreign Minister, Mr Sten Andersson. He was housed at the Government's official residence for visiting dignitaries and royalty, a snow-decked castle on the outskirts of Stockholm. The Swedish Prime Minister, Mr Ingvar Carlsson, cut short an official visit to Paris to fly back for talks with him.

The reception he was given invoked Israeli fears that Sweden might be on the verge of recognizing the recently proclaimed Palestinian state.

But the Swedish Foreign Ministry emphasized that the main purpose of the visit was to allow Mr Arafat to meet the five-person US Jewish delegation on neutral ground.

It said there was no question as yet of Sweden recognizing



Warm greeting in the snow for Mr Arafat from Sweden's Foreign Minister, Mr Sten Andersson. Any state which did not control its own territory.

Mr Arafat's visit was arranged in a series of clandestine meetings held over the past year between Swedish diplomats, PLO representatives and members of the International Centre for Peace in the Middle East, a little-known liberal-oriented Jewish organization working in both the United States and Israel. Sweden's ruling Social Democratic Party hailed it as a diplomatic triumph.

But doubts were cast by Jewish leaders as to its efficacy in aiding the cause of Middle Eastern peace. Mr Per Ahlmark, a leading light in

Sweden's Jewish community and a former chairman of the Liberal Party, speaking on Swedish Radio poured scorn on the meeting, accusing Mr Andersson of superficiality.

He said Mr Arafat would be truly welcome in Sweden only when he renounced terrorism and recognized Israel's right to exist within secure borders.

The Jewish delegation is led by Mrs Rita Hauser, a lawyer who heads the US arm of the International Centre for Peace in the Middle East. It is a member of the Council of Foreign Relations and is a close friend of Israel's Labour leader and former Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres.

Mr Andersson meanwhile appears to have modified his stance on the Palestinian issue considerably.

Only one week after condemning Israeli oppression in the occupied territories at a Stockholm rally to express solidarity with the Palestinian people, Mr Andersson made a speech at the weekend that was markedly more conciliatory, expressing the Swedish Government's unabated support for Israel. "Sweden has for 40 years supported Israel's right to exist and live in peace. That support will continue," he pledged.

Last night a ballet-proof, plexi-glass cage was being built over the grave of the assassinated Swedish Prime Minister, Olof Palme, in a churchyard in central Stockholm where Mr Arafat will lay a wreath today before flying to PLO headquarters in Tunis.

Greek refusal to extradite Arab fuels row in EEC

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Greece turned down an Italian request yesterday for the extradition of an Arab wanted for the 1982 bombing of the Runc synagogue because, it said, his actions were in the context of the Palestinian struggle for freedom. A boy aged two was killed in the grenade attack and 34 people were injured.

Abdel Osama al-Zomor, aged 27, identified by Western intelligence as a member of the Abu Nidal terrorist organization, was deported early yesterday. A Greek government spokesman said he had been allowed to go to "a country of his choice" but he refused to name it.

The Greek move adds a new twist to the raging controversy over the extradition of terrorist suspects that is expected to dominate discussions when the Trevi Group, Europe's counter-terrorism watchdog, meets at ministerial level in Athens tomorrow and on Friday.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, is expected to press Britain's European partners for concrete co-operation in anti-terrorist action in the wake of the Anglo-Belgian-Irish row over the extradition of Father Patrick Ryan, wanted in Britain on terrorism-linked charges.

The Belgians, although visibly miffed by Mrs Thatcher's attack in Rhodes, are proposing a European agreement to standardize extradition procedures. Diplomats said the European ministers will certainly seek explanations from the Greeks on their reasons for denying Italy's extradition request.

Mr Vassor Rotis, the Greek Justice Minister, caused a sensation among Western embassies here when he made public his decision which set aside two previous court rulings recommending Al-Zomor's extradition to Italy.

The decision identified a man, a Jordanian passport holder, as "Palestinian by nationality" which implied indirect recognition of Palestinian statehood. The minister told reporters: "The Palestinians now have no right to have their own government and things are different from what they were three to four years ago since they formally renounced terrorism."

The minister's decision read: "The actions for which extradition is requested were in the context of the struggle to regain the independence of his homeland, constituting activ-

ity in favour of freedom and therefore not acts of terrorism."

The Greek decision coincided with intelligence reports that the Abu Nidal group and Ahmed Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, General Command, may be planning a joint operation for the first time to take hostages and exchange them for detained terrorists. France, West Germany and Greece are known to have Arab terrorists in custody.

Al-Zomor was arrested at the Greek-Turkish border in 1982, one month after the Rome attack. He was driving a car loaded with 132 lb of explosives. After serving two-thirds of a 20-month prison sentence, the Greeks recommended his extradition to Italy.

Just as Italian police officers flew to Athens to escort him back to Rome, the Greek Justice Ministry rescinded the order, arguing that Al-Zomor would be put on trial for instigating a bomb attack

Beirut (AP) — Mr Dino Sciolli, the Swiss Ambassador to Lebanon, urged an estimated 200 remaining Swiss nationals to leave as four more Red Cross delegates flew out yesterday, bringing to eight the number of Swiss members of the relief group who have left Lebanon since the abduction of Mr Peter Winkler, a colleague, on November 17.

against the Jordanian airline's Athens office, while he was in jail.

He was eventually acquitted of the charge, but promptly put on trial for keeping a knife in his prison cell. Sentenced to two years' imprisonment, he was to have been released later this week after serving two-thirds of his time.

The Al-Zomor case is bound to cause the US concern since it could set precedent for the extradition of Mohammed Rashid, aged 35, who is wanted for bomb attacks against passenger aircraft.

The Greek Supreme Court demanded last month all detailed evidence against Rashid before making up its mind on the extradition request. The final decision, however, still rests with the Minister of Justice.

Significantly, Mr Rashid's defence was that he was a Palestinian freedom fighter, and therefore not subject to the provisions of the Greek-US extradition treaty.

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Aftermath of the Bangladesh cyclone

Stricken fishermen press for better storm protection

From Edward Gorman, Meherali Char, southern Bangladesh

The fishermen of this strip of sand on the edge of the Bay of Bengal greeted with a certain scepticism the arrival of Mr Muniruz Zaman, Secretary for Relief in President Ershad's Government.

After facing head-on what they claim was the worst cyclone in the country's history which they say swept 4,000 of their fellows to their deaths, they feel, perhaps rightly, it is time the Government took effective measures to prevent another calamity.

oorth of here. This would help the fishermen while salinity levels, in fresh water ponds engulfed by the tidal surge, slowly returned to normal.

More as a gesture of solidarity than of effective assistance, Mr Zaman was also able to present the fishermen of Meherali Char (Island) with boxes of dried dates, rice and biscuits.

Mr Zaman, stepping down from the Air Force helicopter on to the bald sand where just a week ago 2,000 fishermen's huts stood to oat rows, did his best to reassure the bronzed and gnarled men that help was on its way.

you see will be the last. We will get nothing more. We have very many problems and we need the shelters to save our fishermen from drowning.

Samin is from Pirojpur, about 60 miles to the north-east. He is one of 12,000 men who spend the four months of the winter fishing season on this remote island which rises only a few feet above sea level and consists almost entirely of dense mangrove swamp - the

home of spotted deer and Royal Bengal tigers. On the night of the storm he said most of the men, alerted by warnings on the radio, ran into the swamp. Many who drowned were out fishing at the time.

we decided to wait for our distinguished visitors and bury them later." Samin agrees that even at the best of times, life on Meherali Char is precarious, but in one of the world's poorest countries, the lure of good money for exported dried *lataka* fish is hard to resist.

The official death toll for the cyclone remains below 2,000 but officials in Dhaka yesterday spoke of at least 12,000 still missing in this area, the worst-hit extreme south-west of the country. A week after the storm, most of these must now be presumed dead.

Tears end talking about Bakker affair

From Christopher Thomas Washington



Miss Jessica Hahn in emotional mood in Phoenix, Arizona: "This is where it ends for me."

Miss Jessica Hahn, the former church secretary who soared to fame and riches after a sex scandal involving Mr Jim Bakker, head of the Praise The Lord television ministry, says she has talked enough about the affair.

"This is where it ends for me. I refuse to be a slave to this story any longer," she said in an emotional, rambling statement in Phoenix, Arizona, after the indictment of Mr Bakker and a former aide, Mr Richard Dortch.

The two are accused of conspiring to maintain their "lavish and extravagant lifestyles" by cheating investors out of millions of dollars in holiday partnerships at the ministry's Heritage Village USA resort.

Mr Bakker's troubles began in March, 1987, when he resigned from the ministry amid disclosures that he committed adultery with Miss Hahn and paid to silence her. Miss Hahn received \$363,000 (about £195,000) in ministry money. She now contends that she was raped.

Miss Hahn, who now works as a disc jockey in Phoenix, said the indictments vindicated her account of what went on in the ministry, where cash donations were handled under the pretext of "a dollar for God and a dollar for those doing the counting".

She said tearfully that she had lost her family since the affair became public. "I've not seen them in a year," she said.

Christmas in Egyptian jail

Cairo court delays British woman's drug case appeal

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

Mrs Maureen Paleschi, a British woman serving a 25-year sentence for drug smuggling, will spend Christmas in an overcrowded Egyptian prison dormitory with more than 70 other female prisoners after a decision yesterday by Egypt's highest court to defer until February 7 a ruling on her appeal.

Mrs Paleschi, aged 50 and a divorced mother of two, was not in Cairo's Court of Cassation to hear the outcome of the appeal launched by her lawyer in February, the month after she received a 25-year sentence for smuggling heroin with a street value of more than £2 million inside a decorative elephant.

Many prominent members of the British community here are convinced of her innocence, and Western sources said that the deferment of the appeal judgement would increase pressure on the British and Egyptian governments to complete negotiations for a prisoner repatriation pact.

Dr Raouf Mahdi, a leading Egyptian lawyer, tried to win for Mrs Paleschi a retrial on the premise that the lower court had erred in implementing provisions of the law. If he is successful when the judgement is handed down Mrs Paleschi, from Yarm, near Darlington, will be permitted bail but will have to stay in Cairo for the new proceedings.

He argued in court that evidence by the prime prosecution witness, Mr Tarek Abu Zeid, a narcotics officer, cast doubt on the verdict. He claimed that Mr Abu Zeid did not say that Mrs Paleschi knew the contents of the elephant. He also said that the narcotics officer testified that there was a group of Egyptian men who used and exploited British women to smuggle drugs into Egypt.

At her trial before the lower tribunal, she told the three judges that her former friend and co-defendant, Mr Muhammad Niaz (who also received a 25-year sentence

along with a second Egyptian man) had given her the wooden elephant as a gift during a holiday in Pakistan. She had no idea it contained heroin, and he denied that he had given her the elephant.

Her harrowing prison life in the notorious Qanatir jail, north of Cairo, was outlined for the first time yesterday by the Very Rev Philip Cousins, the Anglican Provost of Cairo's All Saints' Cathedral, who has been alternating visits to her with the British Consul.

"She is the only European in a dormitory of between 70 and 80 women, most of whom speak no English. They have very little privacy beyond a curtain around their beds," Mr Cousins explained. "They are not even permitted to do work like embroidery or needlework, so she spends much of her time reading books - mostly religious ones - sent by well-wishers in Britain."

Mrs Paleschi's conviction caused a stir at the time because so many of those close to the trial in Cairo, including members of the British Embassy, had been privately convinced that she would be found not guilty. A charge against her sister Marion, then aged 42, was dropped.

"The prison is hopelessly overcrowded, and in matters like hygiene does not live up to Western standards, but Mrs Paleschi is bearing her ordeal with great dignity and resourcefulness," Mr Cousins said. "She is very uncomplaining, very co-operative and very good with the other prisoners - who also appear mostly to be on drugs charges. She has to wear a prison uniform of a white *galabeya*."

He added: "Mrs Paleschi strongly protests her innocence and is very convincing in her statements. If her lawyer succeeds in winning her the retrial that all of us are hoping for, I have made arrangements for her to come and live with me and my wife while it takes place."

Kenyan editor held

Nairobi (Reuters) - Mr Peter Kareithi, the editor of Kenya's most outspoken political magazine, the *Financial Review*, was arrested by plain-clothes police yesterday, the magazine reported. No reason was given for his arrest but police said that they were taking him to the headquarters of the Criminal Investigation Department.

Mr Joseph Karanja, the Vice-President, recently accused the *Financial Review* of "working to denigrate the good government of this nation".

Plane sit-in

Peking (AFP) - Angry passengers took over a Boeing 737 for eight hours in protest at the cancellation of their flight to Chongqing.

Late channel

Luxembourg (Reuters) - A Swedish channel has been signed-up by Luxembourg's Societe Europeenne des Satellites days before the launch of its Astra satellite.

Rebels killed

Colombo (Reuters) - Indian troops killed 13 rebels after Tamil guerrillas ambushed them in northern Sri Lanka.

Bomber crash

Washington (Reuters) - Eight crew members survived after a B52 bomber crashed near a Michigan Air Force base.

Soldiers die

Ankara - Eight soldiers were killed when an army patrol was ambushed by Kurdish separatists in south-eastern Turkey.

Train deaths

Balawayo (AP) - Six people died and three were injured when an ammunition train crashed into a gully in southern Zimbabwe.

Maid kidnap

Kortrijk (AP) - Two armed men who abducted the maid of a Belgian businessman demanded 200 million francs (£3 million) in ransom.

Judges strike

Lisbon (Reuters) - A nationwide strike by Portuguese judges over pay, the first in history, has halted court cases.



J A N N E T

VSP Armagnac

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Sir Joh admits that 'donors' left bags of cash in his office

From Christopher Morris, Sydney

Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen admitted to the Royal Commission into police corruption that while he was Premier of Queensland, anonymous donors left bags stuffed with tens of thousands of dollars in cash in his office.

He also admitted under cross examination yesterday that he had used the Special Branch to investigate the background of a political opponent he regarded as a threat.

Sir Joh, on his third day in the witness box at the commission inquiry in Brisbane, claimed that he and his personal staff knew nothing about the sources of the \$50,000 (\$22,700) and \$60,000 cash donations left at his office. The money was part of more than \$550,000 in political donations he was questioned about.

He denied that any donations - to the Queensland National Party or to a private political fund set up by his aides - led to political favours, such as awarding valuable public works contracts.

Sir Joh said the donations were probably taken to his office by someone "who left the money in a bag and didn't tell me what it was at the time. Nobody comes in and says 'I've got \$50,000'. I do not sit at the door waiting for people to come in with funds."

The incredulous Commission

er, Mr Tony Fitzgerald, QC, replied: "Obviously you don't have it."

The inquiry was told a "pass the parcel" system involving bags of cash handed over to Queensland National Party workers netted the party hundreds of thousands of dollars while Sir Joh was in office.

Sir Joh also received a \$100,000 donation handed over in a bag by a Hong Kong businessman.

Asked by Mr Fitzgerald if it was unusual for large sums of money to be handed over as cash donations, Sir Joh replied: "No sir, not at all."

Of his conversation with the Hong Kong businessman, Sir Joh added: "He said like

everybody else said, 'We want to help the party, we're interested in the way you operate.'"

The political opponent the former Premier had asked the Special Branch to investigate was Mr Angus Innes, now the leader of Queensland's Liberal Party.

According to a Special Branch detective whose name was not revealed, Sir Joh wanted the background of Mr Innes thoroughly investigated. "The Premier regarded Innes as a young Turk and his greatest political threat," the detective said. "The instruction required me to find something against Innes."

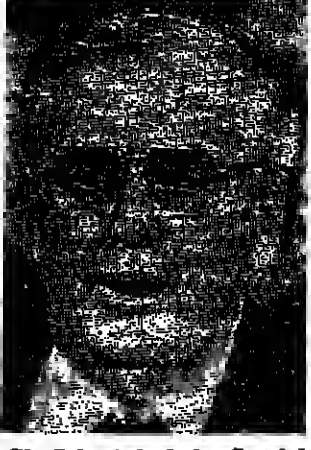
In reply, Sir Joh claimed that he had never regarded Mr Innes as any sort of a threat and he could not recall asking the Special Branch to make inquiries.

But after repeated questioning Sir Joh indicated that he might have asked for some checks to be made. "There was something in his background that might have been required to know about," he said.

The Commissioner commented: "It is not much of a basis to get the Special Branch to investigate."

The investigations, the inquiry was told yesterday, had found nothing improper in Mr Innes's background. The commission inquiry continues today.

Sir Joh: Asked the Special Branch to investigate rival.



Philippine troops scour remote islands



Philippine government troops rounding up the people of a remote village in their search for seven soldiers held prisoner in Quezon province, 80 miles south-east of the capital.

Brigadier-General Alejandro Galido, the military commander for southern Luzon, said that helicopter-borne troops had killed at least 15 guerrillas belonging to the

New People's Army on Monday, including the chief of a village on Kalitkot island whom he identified as a rebel (AP reports).

Troops had also seized three boats, which General Galido claimed were ferrying rice and weapons to the guerrillas.

Meanwhile, suspected communist rebels shot two soldiers to death near Manila, the

military authorities said. Constable William Submay and Sergeant Rodrigo Gray had been sitting in a Jeep in the suburb of Muntinlupa when two men had walked up and opened fire.

Colonel Victor Tiango said a preliminary investigation indicated the killers were part of a New People's Army assassination team, known here as

"sparrow units". He said that captured rebel documents indicated that the guerrillas were planning to step up attacks in the Manila area in the next few weeks in an effort to boost morale after the arrests of rebel leaders.

More than 100 police and soldiers in Manila are believed to have been killed by "sparrow units" since last year.

Santa demands new pay clause

From Our Correspondent Sydney

The spirit of goodwill was distinctly absent in Sydney yesterday when Santa Claus took his employers to court claiming he was underpaid.

Santa saw red and demanded a new clause in his contract when he discovered that helpers in his grotto were getting paid more than twice as much as him.

Now there is even talk of a Santa strike this Christmas in Australia because at the Sydney department store where he works, he is paid £5.50 an hour compared with the £12 an hour for his assistants, the elves, dwarfs and jugglers.

The Santas are paid the same rate as a shop assistant, while their helpers get paid more as members of the Actors Equity union.

Santa yesterday went to the Industrial Commission to demand more, a dramatic role reversal for someone who spends his days at this time of the year hearing lots of claims from young children.

"I found out that the elves, the dwarfs and the jugglers all got paid considerably more than me," he complained.

Actors Equity claimed that department store Santas were actors and could not be classified as shop assistants because they did not sell anything.

"It is seen as unethical for any Santa to promote goods sold in the store," said Equity's industrial officer, Ms Rocque Reynolds.

"Basically he has to get into a costume and perform. Stores take advantage of the season of goodwill by making Santas work for a pittance. Even a performing dog is paid more."

"Most Santas have completed acting courses and are required to audition with hearty 'Ho, ho, ho!'"

For his part Santa - otherwise Mr Robert Kleiner, a 29-year-old actor - insisted he did a professional job and should be paid the proper rate.

He also claimed that the poor pay had not always attracted the right calibre of person. Some of his fellow Santas "have been known to walk out of a grotto and visit the wine-tasting section," he said. The hearing continues.

Paris transport strike misery threatens to derail Socialists

From Philip Jacobson Paris

As millions of commuters in and around Paris prepare for another miserable journey to work, there is growing discontent over the Socialist Government's handling of the public transport strikes crippling the capital.

With little prospect of an imminent breakthrough in the negotiations that were renewed yesterday, and still more disruptions in the pipeline, the feeling of frustration generated by 10 days of chaos is immense.

So far, the most visible reaction is the motion of censure which M Michel Rocard will face in the

National Assembly later this week. The besieged Prime Minister should survive that, but he must now accept that his minority administration has little chance of staggering from one parliamentary crisis to another for its full five years in office.

If the splintered forces of the right cannot achieve M Rocard's downfall unaided, the sharp and continuing decline in his personal standing in the country at large may be enough to tip the scales.

Two opinion polls taken since the start of public sector strikes in Paris and several provincial cities suggest that the Government's determined effort to pin the entire

blame on the Communist Party and its trade union allies has left a good many of the French unconvinced that they are the only villains of the piece. Without doubt, the pro-Communist CGT union jumped at the chance to return to the labour front line.

But the latest rash of strikes owes more to worries about pay, working conditions and a keen sense of being undervalued by society than the machinations of the hard left.

Although the Communists are understandably eager to exploit the situation by forcing a ballot-box alliance on the Socialists before France's municipal elections next March, their direct influence over

the rank-and-file works committees disrupting Paris appears to be limited.

In any case, while a deal with the far left could provide M Rocard's Government with something resembling a secure parliamentary majority, neither the Prime Minister or President Mitterrand have any appetite for such a coalition.

Voters who edged the Socialists back into power last June were promised bold new ideas, a transformation of their lives, not yet another variation on the stagnant theme of French political accommodation.

It would be highly instructive for M Rocard to ride alongside fellow

citizens in one of the military convoys that assemble in the suburbs at first light. The novelty of jolting to work in draughty army lorries has worn off, to be replaced by growing indignation at what is seen as weak and indecisive leadership.

In a nation of confirmed groggnards (grumblers) the Prime Minister's little jaunt the other day in the cockpit of a Mirage fighter high above the troubled capital, received short shrift.

"They should have ejected him over the Seine," snapped one rain-drenched traveller. "Or fired him into space," suggested another. As for President Mitterrand,

whose backing for the Prime Minister has often appeared less than wholehearted, he recently took time off from foreign trips and great affairs of state to inform the nation that he approved of M Rocard's "firmness" towards the strikers.

There could be better weeks for a President accused of Olympian detachment from the common herd to have a diary that whisks him off on a state visit to Czechoslovakia immediately after receiving, in no particular order, three former prime ministers from abroad, two serving prime Ministers, a trio of presidents and the King of Spain.

Tibetan leader sacked over unrest

Peking (Reuters) - China has dismissed its Communist Party leader in the troubled region of Tibet and tightened security to prevent monks from staging fresh anti-Chinese protests. Western sources said yesterday.

Nevertheless, monks and hundreds of pilgrims filled Lhasa's main square outside Tibet's holiest shrine on Saturday night and police did not intervene, although the Prayer of Wrath chanted by the crowd contained lines entreating the "protectors of Tibet to drive the barbarians of the east from the land of the snows".

The security clampdown started on November 23 during a festival for Lhasa's protector goddess, the symbol for many Tibetans of their desire for independence from China. At about the same time, Tibet's Communist Party leader, Mr Wu Jinghua, was recalled to Peking and

dismissed for failing to stop unrest in Lhasa, the sources reported from the regional capital.

A party spokeswoman in Peking said that Mr Hu Jintao, former party leader in Guizhou province, had been appointed the new Communist Party leader of Tibet last Thursday. She declined comment on what had happened to Mr Wu, who headed the party in Tibet since 1985.

Protests against Peking's rule over the poor Himalayan region erupted in October last year, giving rise to some of the bloodiest riots since the failure of a rebellion in 1959 forced Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, to flee across the border to India. Monks clashed with police again last March and an unknown number of people were killed.

Residents in Lhasa said the city is tense again, with armed police circling the Jokang

Temple, questioning people and checking identity papers.

Police with automatic weapons had also recently toured the main streets on motorbikes with sidecars, and Tibetans trying to gather in Lhasa's Barkhor Square had been told to move on. Foreign tourists had their passports checked and hotel rooms searched, the sources said.

In a show of police strength last Wednesday, about 40 criminals were paraded through the streets in a convoy of trucks. The Western sources quoted informed Tibetans as saying that more than 100 political prisoners, including at least 30 monks and nuns, had been taken from prisons inside Tibet to other areas of China. Chinese officials have said in recent months that only 20 or so Tibetans were being detained in connection with separatist protests. Despite the clamp-

down, posters calling for an end to Chinese rule continue to appear in Lhasa's main square.

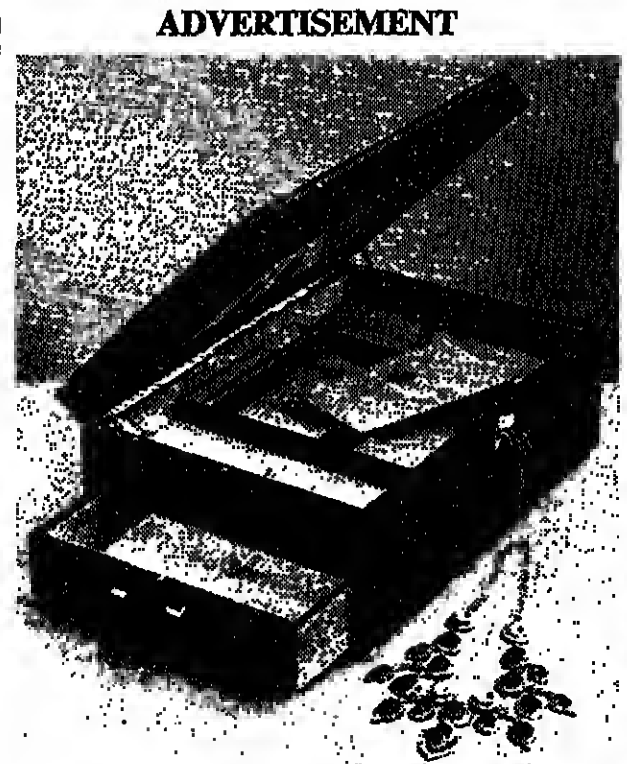
Western diplomats, while uncertain what policy changes Tibet's new party leader would bring, noted that Mr Hu, aged 46, was relatively young and had experience in Guizhou and Gansu provinces, both poor areas inhabited by minority peoples.

"The policy now is to soak the place with police and infiltrate everything," one Western diplomat said. Others believe the real power in Tibet lay of late in the hands of Mr Wu's deputy, Mr Ma Rubai, who recently visited the US and met State Department officials.

Chinese troops took control of Tibet in the 1950s. Peking says it has ruled the region, now home to two million people, for centuries and will never give it independence.



Royal Crown Derby Walrus Paperweight £47 Spode Armada Plate £69.95



Blue Suede Jewel Box £850

Christmas is a-coming in..... The Return Visit

Walking along Piccadilly, from Green Park, I had an awareness that for the first time in many months I was looking forward to a shopping excursion. Searching for the reason I concluded it was because the main centre for my day's activities was to be Fortnum & Mason, and that following my recent reintroduction to the store I was beginning to feel like one of the family.

The pleasant welcoming and adaptable way that the staff meets the needs of its customer as an individual is what has taken me. It is still a family store, and it has that warmth about it.

The windows are as usual fantastic, and here I now see the full picture of what was just a dream depicted on the cover of the Christmas Catalogue issued earlier in the year.

Winners for two successive years of the International Display Award it is obvious they are trying for the hat trick. They would receive my vote for pure imagination.

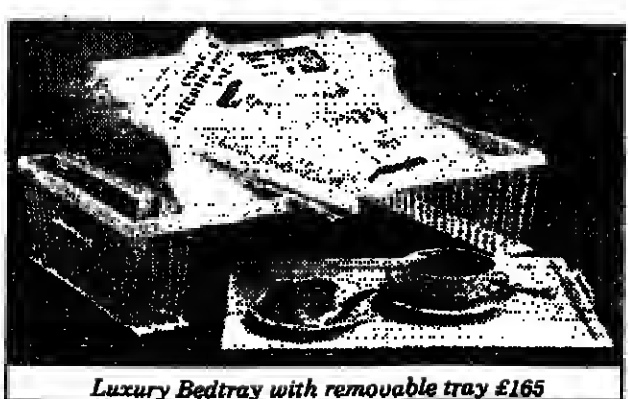
Once inside, my first task is to place my order for the own-label prize-winning Champagne quality for price I give it my personal award.

That accomplished, I return to the main purpose of my visit today. I must finalise my Christmas shopping.

You may wonder why I like to finish before December is barely begun. The answer is manifold. For example the shops are less crowded and the selection at its best in November and early December. The crush builds

A good range of photo frames in wood, velvet, enamel, leather and silver plate solve yet another outstanding problem. Things are going well; I will drop down to the Lower Ground Floor for my final items.

A luxury bedtray with a removable tray and compartments on the side, plus a fully adjustable reading rest, for a couple I know who take it in turns to spoil each other with breakfast in bed and also one of those "combo" ideas that Fortnum & Mason do so well. A wicker basket, decorated with dried flowers, and containing a famous Fortnum & Mason Christmas Pudding and basin with a spice jar included, there is both immediate pleasure and after use contained in the one gift.



Luxury Bedtray with removable tray £165

ADVERTISEMENT

"old jewellery possibly antique". An exquisite brooch, alternating as a pendant in 15ct gold with peridot and natural pearls is an estimated 90 years old and priced at £950, whilst a ring also in 15ct gold with an orange blossom motif is estimated 120 years old - priced at £240. A memorial brooch, dated 1844, in gold and black enamel with onyx cameo surrounded by natural pearls, is both striking and good value at only £775.

Copy Victorian Albert chains in 9ct gold having graduated links from which one may hang a revolving cornelian and bloodstone seal, indicates the strengthening fashion trend.

For collector friends a Crown Derby Walrus Paperweight at £47.00 and a Spode "Armada" plate for another at £69.95.

As a greater period of the Victorian era falls into the mystical 100 years of age, that traditionally allows items to be referred to as "Antique", so the fashion pendulum swings and a new regard begins to grow for such hijouterie. In the Precious Jewellery selection there is a gentle emphasis on "Estate Jewellery" which otherwise translates as



From left to right: Victorian Brooch/Pendant £950. Albert Chain £25. Attached Revolving Cornelian/Bloodstone Seal £405. 15ct Gold Victorian Ring £598. Victorian Dance Pencil £219. Victorian Wedding Ring 18ct Gold £240. Victorian Memorial Brooch 1844 £775.

My list almost complete I must confess that when it comes to my younger nephews and nieces I am always at a total loss to know what to choose.

My dilemma is in the lack of knowledge of what they may already own, and what is currently being planned for them.

Fortnum & Mason to the rescue, they have a very adaptable Gift Token scheme that can be used anywhere in the store.

Suppose I organise the experience I was privileged to receive when I was young - a splendid ice cream extravaganza in the Fountain Restaurant with Gift Vouchers to cover the cost.

I am willing to place odds that no one will think of that, and if perchance they have, the children will be doubly blessed!

Whilst buying the vouchers in the Reception area I am introduced to the Fortnum & Mason Credit Account, again fully optional and, would you believe, charging only 1 1/2% per month on any outstanding balance, should you elect not to pay in full at the end of the month. For the accountancy minded, that works out at 19.5% APR.

On checking around I find that the rate is more than competitive, and as an aside I am told that regular account users have special attention with private sale previews and shopping opportunities and unique offers. Must be good!

Angry Belgians

Scottish and traini

Welcome for EEC budget

December 6 1988

PARLIAMENT

Angry Kinnock attacks Belgians and Thatcher

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, criticized the Belgian Cabinet for political evasion in refusing the extradition of Father Patrick Ryan to Britain...

RHODES SUMMIT

chaos by the prejudicial tantrums of the British Prime Minister last week.

To ensure that there was no hiding place for suspected terrorists in these islands, would the Prime Minister take what opportunity still existed for bringing the suspect Father Ryan to face charges?

Would the Government use the proven instrument of the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act to set on the allegations of handling explosives and unauthorized possession of explosives?

Will she take her own advice and back her speeches and statements with appropriate deeds instead of indulging in damaging histrionics?

Mrs Thatcher said the Government had made clear that there were other effective ways of stopping terrorists, of apprehending criminals, and dealing with those carrying drugs, some border controls must remain.

On Belgium, "the facts spoke for themselves. That was the trouble. When we made this perfectly clear, I hope that most people who really believe in fighting terrorism were on our side."

In the Ryan case, Britain was asking the Republic of Ireland to back the warrants sent over to Father Ryan should be taken into custody while the application for extradition, which took much longer, was fully and properly considered.

Mr Nicholas Budge (Wolverhampton South West, C) said that after the Prime Minister's justified anger and indignation about the Ryan case she should calmly reflect that no special purpose would be achieved by continuing the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Mr John Hume (Foyle, SDLP) asked, after Mrs Thatcher's conversations with the prime ministers of Belgium and Ireland, if her objective to ensure there was no hiding place anywhere in these islands for people who committed murder might be better achieved by making greater use of the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act.

Mrs Thatcher said sometimes that Act could be used, but it was no substitute for effective extradition. In the particular case they were considering, only two of the four charges would be applicable under the Act and the other two would not.

Mr Merlyn Rees (Leeds South and Morley, Lab) asked her to reconsider on the use of the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act. Why could not the two counts be dealt with in Dublin? If extradition, the best way of dealing with it, was not possible, would it not be possible to go to Dublin?

Mrs Thatcher said she had been given legal advice on the matter.

Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne, C) asked if she recalled the conclusion of the Attorney General in the Commons last Thursday, that the refusal of the Belgian Government to agree to the extradition of Father Ryan was based not on legal, but on political grounds. Was there any legal reason that the Irish Government should not now agree to extradition?

Mrs Thatcher said the application for extradition went before the court of first instance in Belgium and the extradition was granted. It went to the court of appeal in Belgium and it confirmed the decision of the court of first instance. Nevertheless, the Cabinet in Belgium could say yes or no on a matter of extradition and they had said no.

Mr Jeffrey Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Bar, Lab) asked why the only head of state who had not addressed the European Parliament was the head of state of Britain.

Amid Labour laughter and calls of "not you, the other one" Mrs Thatcher said "I would think it was quite obvious that the political head of Government who does the political work". It was different from having an executive president.

Mr James Coatham (Gillingham, C) urged her to ignore the wessel words of the Leader of the Opposition whose party, or even of it, would vote against the Prevention of Terrorism Bill second reading.

Mrs Thatcher: I hope as many people as possible will support the Prevention of Terrorism Bill being made permanent. I can think of nothing more important to indicate that people are determined in fighting terrorism.

Mr David Wainick (Walsall North, Lab) said that the manner in which she raised the Ryan case in the House and the meeting with Mr Haughey clearly caused maximum difficulty and embarrassment to the Irish Republic and gave satisfaction to the IRA and its friends.

Why does she act in a manner more characteristic of a Conservative health minister (Mrs Edwina Currie) (Labour laughter).

Mr Kinnock asked why the Government would not use the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act. "It is saying that if she cannot get anything, including bringing Patrick Ryan from Northern Ireland to this country, then she will not take legal means to achieve anything."

Mrs Thatcher: No. My legal advice is that only two of the four charges will come under that Act. Legal advice must come from the Attorney General or the Solicitor General. The Government believed in an extradition policy because it was far better to bring people to trial in the country where the offences have taken place.



Mrs Edwina Currie (above, right). Under Secretary of State for Health, has an uncontrollable tongue and an insatiable desire for self-advertisement. A Conservative backbencher said to Lord Labour cheers during Prime Minister's question time.

devastation caused to the livelihoods of many people in the poultry industry by Mrs Currie's reckless and uninformed statements. As Mrs Thatcher was responsible for the composition of her Government, what action did she intend to take now (Labour cheers)?

but the answer to his question is, no, sir. I did read very carefully the statement by the Chief Medical Officer, first on November 21 and second on December 5. I must say, having read them both very carefully, I then decided to have scrambled egg on toast for lunch and enjoyed it.

Children Bill: Second reading

Child law 'landmark'

The days when a child was regarded as a possession of his parent - when they had a right to his services and to sue on their loss - were now buried for ever, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, said in moving the second reading of the Children Bill in the Lords.

HOUSE OF LORDS

that over-zealous handling of such cases does not recur.

Mr Mackay, equally, the reports on the deaths of Jasmine Beckford, Kimberley Carlisle, Tyra Henry and others show the importance of ensuring that children at risk are properly protected.

That pointed to the need to have a legal framework giving effective protection to those too young and vulnerable to defend themselves and was also fair to parents.

"This balance has been shown to be missing from child-care law at present. We have also failed to satisfy the European Court of Human Rights that the present law in relation to parental access to children in care is satisfactory. The Bill seeks to correct these and other deficiencies of the present law."

The Bill would discourage the practice of putting children in care because of inadequate home circumstances or as part of a divorce package.

Local authorities would also have a new duty to promote the upbringing of children in need by their families so far as it was consistent with their welfare duty to the child himself.

Partnership with parents, based on agreement so far as possible, would be the guiding principle.

"As a matter of principle, it is important for the law in a free society expressly to protect the integrity and independence of families save where there is at least likelihood of significant harm to the child from within the family."

In reforming child law, the Bill also provided for the redesign of court arrangements and procedures to meet the needs of children's cases.

To emphasize the civil nature of proceedings concerning children, the Bill by amendment will take power to shift jurisdiction to hear care applications from magistrates' juvenile courts to domestic courts, thus finally obliterating any criminal overtones.

It would also be possible for all proceedings to be heard in the same court by judges and magistrates who had made a special study of family law.

"With this Bill the Government has put in hand a programme of work which will extend step by step to all aspects of family law and business."

The main improvements under the Bill would go a long way to achieving the general approach to all family litigation sought by those who had called for a family court.

Lord Mackay: Public and private law brought together

Tourist centre protest

The tourist information centre at the Tower of London is closed from the autumn to Easter because it is in a temporary but not suitable for winter use, Mr John Lee, Under Secretary of State for Employment, said at questions.

Talks to improve it are taking place between the London Tourist Board and the London Docklands Corporation, he told Mr Conal Gregory (York, C).

Mr Gregory said that an enormous opportunity was being lost. It was a national scandal that such an attractive venue as the Tower had its tourist information centre closed from the autumn to Easter.

Mr Lee said that he would like to see more sites open for longer periods.

Concern over engineering

Sir Cyril Smith (Rochdale, Democrat) expressed concern during questions that school leavers were not interested in careers in engineering. They were more interested in computers.

"There is a considerable shortage of applicants for apprenticeships in the engineering industry."

Mr Patrick Nicholls, Under Secretary of State for Employment, agreed.

"Employers need to be involved in the training of young people; that is entirely right. The proposition we announced yesterday in our White Paper will ensure that employers play their proper part in this way."

Blake print in lieu of tax

The Government has accepted a flower painting by Jacob Marrel and a print by William Blake, "Frontispiece to the Book of Abania", in lieu of tax, Mr Richard Lacey, Minister for Arts, said in a written answer that the tax liability satisfied had been £51,369 and £19,638 respectively. The Blake print will go to the Fitzwilliam Museum, but it has not yet been decided where the Marrel painting will go.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Trade and industry. Water Bill, second reading, first day.

Lords (2.30): Debates on consumer debt and on assistance for the mentally ill and mentally handicapped.

Scottish Enterprise will get job and training responsibilities

Proposals to incorporate the Scottish Development Agency (SDA) into a new national body, Scottish Enterprise, with strategic responsibility for enterprise, job creation and training, were announced by Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland.

He said that at local level a comprehensive network of local agencies, run by employers, would tailor training to local needs. Two-thirds or more of the boards of such agencies would be expected to come from the senior ranks of private business.

For the first time, training in Scotland would be delivered by a Scottish body answerable to the Secretary of State for Scotland. The proposals form part of a White Paper.

Funding would be that already provided for the SDA and training programmes in Scotland, a total of £500 million this year.

Functions now carried out by the SDA might be devolved later to local agencies. There were attractions in delegating as much authority as possible to local level, but the Government was undecided where the balance between local and central powers should lie.

SCOTLAND

He set out three options for the Highlands and Islands "to build on success to date".

These were: To set up a new body, Highland Enterprise, incorporating the Highlands and Islands Development Board plus responsibility for training; to remain the HIB and set up training agencies; or to invite the HIB to act as a local agent for Scottish Enterprise.

There was Labour laughter when Mr Rifkind claimed to have been delighted by widespread interest and enthusiasm for his proposals. The people of Scotland were clearly attracted to the new opportunities offered by this approach to training and enterprise creation, he said.

Mr Donald Dewar, chief Opposition spokesman on Scottish affairs, said that he did not remember any announcement which had been so well trailed and heralded. Mr Rifkind had been doing well in the cliché business for the past few minutes. The purple passages at the beginning said much for Mr Rifkind's courage, or at least his brass neck.

But how much substance was there in the statement? He suspected that those alarmed by the advance publicity would be relieved and those anxious for better training would be disappointed.

The recognition of a need for a Scottish dimension in training was welcome. One of the tests of the new organization would be its ability to influence the development of employment training and youth training schemes.

Mr Rifkind said that the local organizations would be employer-led. The Opposition expected that they would be genuinely representative of the community. Whatever contribution employers may make, they cannot have exclusive jurisdiction. Trade unions and local authorities must have their say.

Mr Rifkind said that many of the ideas in the White Paper had come from Scottish industry which had indicated its readiness to accept more responsibility for the provision of training.

Mr William Walker (Tayside North, C) said that many people in Scotland, certainly those involved in training and running a business, would welcome the statement. It was the first sensible approach for a long time towards the needs of industry.

Mr Alexander Salmond (Banff and Buchan, SNP) expressed concern that, under the guise of a welcome devolution of Training Commission functions, they may be setting a filling of the Scottish Development Agency.

How many jobs did he expect to be held at the centre?

Mr Rifkind said that he did not envisage that any of the proposals in the White Paper were likely to have a direct effect on the number of staff employed at the SDA and the Highlands and Islands Development Board.

Mr Richard Douglas (Dumfriesshire West, Lab) said that one of the difficulties of employer-led training was that it required training for jobs as they were likely to be.

Mr Rifkind said that he envisaged local agencies preparing economic profiles of their locality about likely future skill shortages.

Welcome for EEC budget

The draft budget of the European Community for next year provided considerable impetus towards completion of the internal market by 1992, Mr Alex Carlile, Democrat spokesman on European affairs, told MPs in a short debate late on Monday.

Broadly welcoming the budget, he said that it provided a greater economic and social cohesion between member states. It also speeded the production of a common policy on research and development and started to tackle environmental policy.

Mr Peter Brooke, Paymaster General, moving a motion, later agreed, to take note of the 1989 draft budget, said that the European Parliament at Strasbourg would have its second reading debate in the week beginning December 12.

Mr Stuart Holland, an Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, said that one of the reasons why the budget was in better shape this year was the overall situation of the world food market, especially the rise of food prices because of the US drought.

Mr David Curry (Stipiton and Ripon, C) gave two cheers for the budget. What characterized it was a new mountain: the Brussels cash mountain. New pressures were coming. The US had much increased its planning in response to the drought and in a couple of years, there would be a big increase in its grain harvest.

Mr John Redwood (Wokingham, C) urged the minister to take the opportunity of US overtures on farm subsidies to see if the principles of competition and the open market could be extended to the extensive agriculture sector.

Council oath Bill 'unnecessary'

The following report of Monday's debate appeared in part in later editions yesterday.

The Government's proposals to require a declaration of allegiance to the Queen from people seeking public office in Northern Ireland were described from the Opposition front bench as misconceived and unnecessary when they were put to the Commons.

The Bill, the Elected Authorities (Northern Ireland) Bill, provided that anyone standing for election in Northern Ireland had to declare that he or she does not support violence or banned organizations.

Mr Kevin McNamara, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said that the case against such legislation had been made so vigorously that he was surprised that the Government had been foolish enough to introduce the Bill.

Mr Peter Robinson (Belfast East, DUP) described the Bill as a limp, lukewarm measure that was neither fish nor fowl.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, moved second reading and Mr McNamara moved an amendment to decline second reading to the Bill, which, he said, was unnecessary because incitement to violence and displays of support for terrorism were already criminal offences.

The Bill did not address itself to the problems of reducing the size of the sea in which the terrorist swim.

The Bill was misconceived and unnecessary. It was not going to eradicate terrorism. It was just a way to strengthen the paramilitary cause.

N IRELAND

The first person to act against a Sinn Féin councillor would have to "keep his head down". The lives of councillors would be in danger.

If there was not to be a criminal offence to be pursued, therefore, the Government must consider setting up a body, perhaps a commission, to which people could take a complaint about remarks by elected representatives and which would be able to bring a prosecution.

Mr Clifford Forsythe (South Antrim, OUP) said that it was becoming more and more difficult to get the right people to run for office while the shadow of the gun and the terrorist hang over council chambers.

Mr Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Democrats and party spokesman on Northern Ireland, said that what was supposed to provide a further instrument to deal with the problem had been made more difficult by the bungling mismanagement by the Prime Minister of the extradition of Patrick Ryan.

What she had done had been cheered to the echo by the IRA, those who wanted an end to the Anglo-Irish agreement and those who wished to see relations between the republic and the United Kingdom at their worst level possible.

The question was whether this was a useful mechanism to add to the head of Government to deter terrorism without significantly damaging civil liberties.

"My view is that it is a useful mechanism."

Mr Robinson: Bill is a limp, lukewarm measure

council chambers had been the result of the Unionist campaign against the Anglo-Irish agreement, not the presence of the Sinn Féin.

It was already a criminal offence to express support for paramilitaries.

The Bill was a blow not to the supporters of the paramilitaries but to constitutional nationalists.

Mr Robinson said that the Bill purported to be a declaration against terrorism, which it was not.

The Government was hypocritical.

It could not be right that Unionist councillors should be expected to sit down and debate issues in local council chambers with members of Sinn Féin while the Secretary of State and his ministers refused to do the same.

The Government was ducking

Few youngsters in poverty, MPs told

Reported poverty among young people because of cuts in their benefits was raised by Labour MPs at Prime Minister's questions. She said that only a small minority of youngsters was involved and one Labour backbencher called her response hypocritical.

Mr Keith Bradley (Manchester, Wittington, Lab) raised the evidence published by Dr Barnardo's, that children leaving local authority care faced subject poverty because of the cuts in their benefits. Would she support the introduction of a special benefit allowance for teenagers leaving local care?

Mrs Thatcher: We are talking about a small minority of young people - (protests) - living independently. They receive maximum help with rent and rates.

Mr Brian Wilson (Cunningham North, Lab) said that her response to the question on the report had been hypocritical. Would she accept that the guarantee of a YTS place, on which the withdrawal of all benefits to 16 and 17-year-olds had been based, "is a lie"?

Mrs Thatcher: There are very many more YTS places than young people applying for them in all regions of the country.

Philips Pocket Memo - Your Electronic Notebook

Advertisement for Philips Pocket Memo. Text: "You speak 7x faster than you write. So record all your notes, ideas and correspondence on a Philips Pocket Memo. It's instant and you can use it anywhere. Philips Pocket Memo - your electronic notebook. Philips - The Dictation Specialist." Includes a coupon for more information.



SPECTRUM

Pricing ourselves off the roads



GETTING LONDON MOVING

Part 3: Charging for use of the roads

The policy of restraint seems to be the most effective in keeping drivers off the streets.

Paul Valley looks at the advantages and disadvantages



Choked to death: a typical scene on a London road - but should motorists pay for the privilege of taking to the streets?

Let us suppose that from next week guests at the Ritz will no longer pay for rooms and that all costs will be paid by the government from the public purse. It is possible that this would mean there will be more guests than there are rooms. If so, then guests can sleep two, three or four to a bed. Any others can sleep on the floor or in the corridors. If this is insufficient to satisfy demand, then the taxpayer will be asked to begin providing the resources for building another hotel next door.

The most valuable real estate anywhere in Europe. Yet its management is curiously anarchic. Where a commodity is scarce and demand is high, there are several mechanisms for regulating the situation. The most usual method is to set prices at a level where supply and demand are balanced. Demand can also be restrained by law. It can be decreed, for example, that camping is illegal in a public park or that only doctors or the disabled can park in a certain place. Another method of restraint is to use a time penalty. To obtain the limited number of bargains at a Harrods sale, or tickets for a Wimbledon final, people pay by giving up their time; often they are prepared to queue for days.

A similar mechanism is used to ration space on the roads. It is called congestion and most transport economists agree that it is the least useful technique for social and economic efficiency. As the capital's arteries become steadily more blocked and the traffic occasionally seizes solid for hours, it has become obvious that the default policy of congestion cannot be allowed to continue. Transport experts are searching for something better. Elsewhere in the world, the policy of restraint is being tried. It produces undoubted benefits, as any tourist in the traffic-free centre of Florence will testify. But serious drawbacks have emerged. In Singapore, where cars can only enter the centre in the rush hour if they are full, street

uchins hire themselves as extra passengers to motorists with empty cars. In Lagos, where cars with odd and even numberplates are only allowed in on alternate days, the wealthy have bought two cars and the corrupt have obtained two numberplates. In Milan, where exemptions are made for essential users, a surprising number of 18-year-old doctors have appeared on the streets. To a Government as enamoured of market forces as Mrs Thatcher's, the most obvious solution is to begin charging for use of the roads. Road pricing, as it is known, is widely accepted among transport planners of all political views as inevitable for a city as large and congested as London, where 1.15 million people commute into a

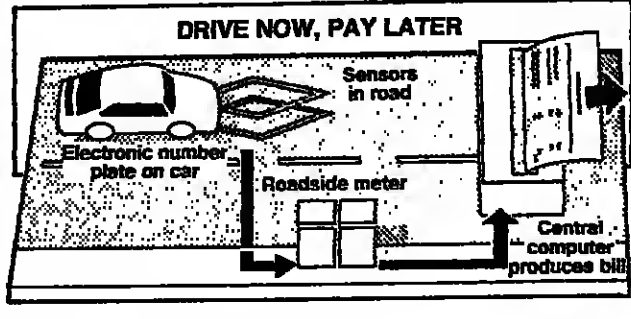
comparatively small area every day. A reduction of as little as 20 per cent in the number of private cars would make the traffic flow much more freely. The option finds favour for a number of reasons. The green lobby sees that it would reduce the number of private cars - which make up more than 70 per cent of London's traffic - thus diminishing noise, pollution and road accidents (500 deaths, 5,000 serious and 50,000 other injuries a year in London). Until 18 months ago, the number of accidents in London was falling, says the Metropolitan Police, but those involving private cars are rising rapidly owing to increasingly reckless driving which the police attribute to congestion frustration.

ELECTRONIC CAT'S-EYES TO DETER THE MOTORIST

There are two basic methods of charging for the use of roads: selling tickets or licensing each vehicle's journeys with electronic meters and sensors built into the road. The first would involve wardens checking licences at a cordon around central London or at random throughout the area. If charges were high enough, all parking meters in the area could be removed and wardens would concentrate on licence checks. The second is favoured by most experts. It is based on a system devised by scientists at the Greater London Council almost a decade ago as part of a road-pricing study which was later abandoned. The technology was borrowed by the Hong Kong road authorities for trial. Each vehicle was fitted with an electronic numberplate (ENP) welded to its underside which transmitted a unique code when interrogated by electronic loops in the road. Roadside computers then transmitted the data to a control centre for checking before bills were sent to the drivers. Vehicles with ENPs which had been tampered with were recorded on video cameras for prosecution. Technically, the experiment

was a success, although it uncovered limitations: All vehicles, even those which rarely use the priced area, have to be fitted with an ENP which costs £40. The need to install loops in the road would make it difficult to introduce extensive changes in the system. There was no indication at the time of the journey how much it was costing. Meters would have to be developed to show this if drivers were to be deterred from journeys. A congestion problem occurred on the boundary where people parked to avoid paying. A clear policy on exemptions - for the disabled, doctors or residents - is needed in advance. The project was abandoned after an outcry from pressure groups and the authorities trobled car tax instead. This bought a temporary respite but

there is again talk of the system being introduced. Road pricing is in operation in two large cities, Bergen and Singapore, and is regarded as a success in both. Bergen, Norway's second city (pop. 200,000), did not have serious congestion but needed money to build new roads. It set up tolls on exits from the ring road to the city centre, with fast lanes for drivers holding pre-paid passes. A single ticket when the scheme began in 1986 cost 50p and an annual pass £100. Charges in London (pop. seven million) would be much higher. Singapore introduced its Area Licence Scheme in 1975. Motorists pay to enter the centre in the morning peak. Cars with more than four occupants are free. The scheme caused chaos on the edge of the pay zone until a ring road was built.



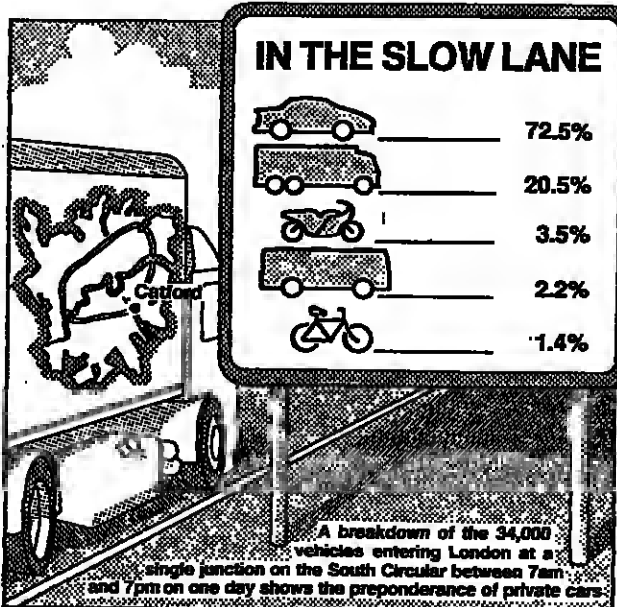
and the way you support public transport. But the question exercising the minds of transport ministers is whether road pricing would not raise a political storm in Britain. Paul Channon, the Transport Secretary, has set his mind against it and his civil servants have marshalled a long list of practical difficulties. Privately, however, one senior official admits: "Of course it could be done, it is technically possible, and we could find ways around these difficulties." But ministers regard the idea as a vote-loser. Ken Huddart, formerly London's chief traffic engineer and more recently a consultant to the World Bank, agrees: "Traffic would have to get a lot worse before people would demand that something should be done which is as radical as making them pay for what they used to get free. Maybe when it takes three hours to make a journey they ood do in half that time it will happen." Others believe that tolerance of the problem in London is already approaching such a breaking point. Goodwood concedes that road-pricing has been the most successful theoretical but the least successful political contribution by economists to transport planning. But he believes that it is nearer than it has ever been.

Winning political acceptability is now largely just a question of tactics, says Sir Christopher Foster, of the economic analysts Coopers & Lybrand, who was a transport adviser to two Labour governments. "First you build new roads, which can only be used by cars with electronic road pricing equipment, to entice people to accept it. Then you extend its use for parking, then to curb congestion in a limited central area, then for the whole of London. Then you can put up prices on public transport to levels where the whole system is at last paying for itself."

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Advertisement for 'The Exclusive HOUSE OF FRASER THE FUR SALON'. It features a woman in a fur coat and a large 'FUR SALE' headline. Below the headline, it says 'World Famous Luxury Furs of Superior Quality' and '100'S OF LUXURY FURS AT WELL BELOW HALF PRICE'. A table lists various fur items and their normal and sale prices. At the bottom, it says 'HOUSE OF FRASER THE FUR SALON OXFORD STREET LONDON. TEL: 01-629 8800'.

Stephen Plowden, traffic adviser to Friends of the Earth, in a report called 'A Case for Traffic Restraint in London', says: "No one should be obliged to accept such encroachments on their freedom for the sake of the marginal convenience of travellers." He recommends a scheme which combines road pricing and permits for certain users. Advocacy more sympathetic to the economic views of the Government comes from several free-market transport experts, such as Sir Alan Walters, who first embraced the idea of road pricing in 1961 when he was a transport economist. Since then he has become something of an economic guru to the Prime Minister, to whose office he returns on a full-time basis in January. The free-market argument is simple. When a motorist gets into his car, he is largely aware of what the journey will cost in time and petrol. He does not include the cost of wear on the road or the cost to other drivers - the extra congestion his vehicle will add, even if only fractionally, to the costs, in petrol and time, of other drivers. Road pricing will make him pay these extra costs in a way which relates directly to them (rather than through an an-



Does London need more roads? TOMORROW

Government in an eggshell

It is widely believed that the eggs pinpointed by Mrs Currie are only the tip of the iceberg. Ministerial Eggs can be quite as untrustworthy. We present a cut-out-and-keep guide to Ministerial Eggs that might not be all they seem. Eggscatter figures: usually "not available". Instead, the minister offers "personal observations" supported by "public opinion", both of which happen to support his own point of view. Eggaggerate: let's not eggaggerate "the problem". Ministerial statement delivered after major catastrophe. Eggssample: Ministers like to give anecdotal eggssamples drawn from their own recent eggperiences. Coincidentally, these eggssamples tend to show that (a) they travel by public transport; (b) they enjoy a joke at their own eggspence; (c) they hobnob with ordinary folk. "I was in Birmingham buying bangers and mash on a bus the other day and an ordinary senior citizen clapped me on the back and said: 'You are doing a great job.'"

spoken by Mr Bernard Ingham. Egggschequer: Chancellor of the Exchequer on the wall. Took out a mortgage on it. Had a great fall. Eggstusion zone: a zone extending around any enemy ship in time of conflict. Egggservative: all Sunday papers carry the same egggservatives, all delivered, and later denied, by government ministers. Egggscommuniacted: see Heath, Eggward. Egggsense: Mr Clarke wants to know what your egggsense is this time, Eggwina. Egggservative decision: decision taken by Mrs Thatcher. Egggservative enquiries: always follow leaked egggsit of ministerial intentions. Egggshibition: "I put my career on the line for what I believe to be right. You raise a couple of interesting points. He makes an egggshibition of himself."

Egggsodus: mass always follows announcement of major statement by the Secretary of State for Scotland. Egggsorbitant: any demand by anyone for any more money. Egggspond: "If I may egggspond on this": "If I might draw your attention away from the point you are making." Egggspect: "The type of carping we have come to egggspect from the party opposite: catch-all response to any criticism." Egggspenditure: always much higher than it was in 1979. Egggsperiment: always "interesting" but usually also "impractical". Egggsports: (as in 'Government Egggsports') a group of men and women highly trained to pinpoint with acute precision any figures that might support a government initiative. Egggsplain: "If you will just let

me egggsplain: if you will let me off the hook." Egggspletive: always deleted from Hansard. Egggsplotiation: the Opposition always egggsplots the fears of the old and the underprivileged when they start querying government policy. Egggsploring: "as in egggsploring all avenues": putting off a decision. Egggsponse: (as in I will egggsponse the flaw in your argument): I will draw attention from the flaws in mine. Egggspression: always "unparliamentary". Egggsstating circumstances: the minister cannot be blamed for everything that goes wrong in his department. Egggsinct: see Du Cann, Eggward. Egggsra: (as in egggsra resources): fewer. Egggsraet: newspaper egggsraets always give the wrong impression of what the Minister really said. Egggsrest: any Member who does not support an end to free eye tests.



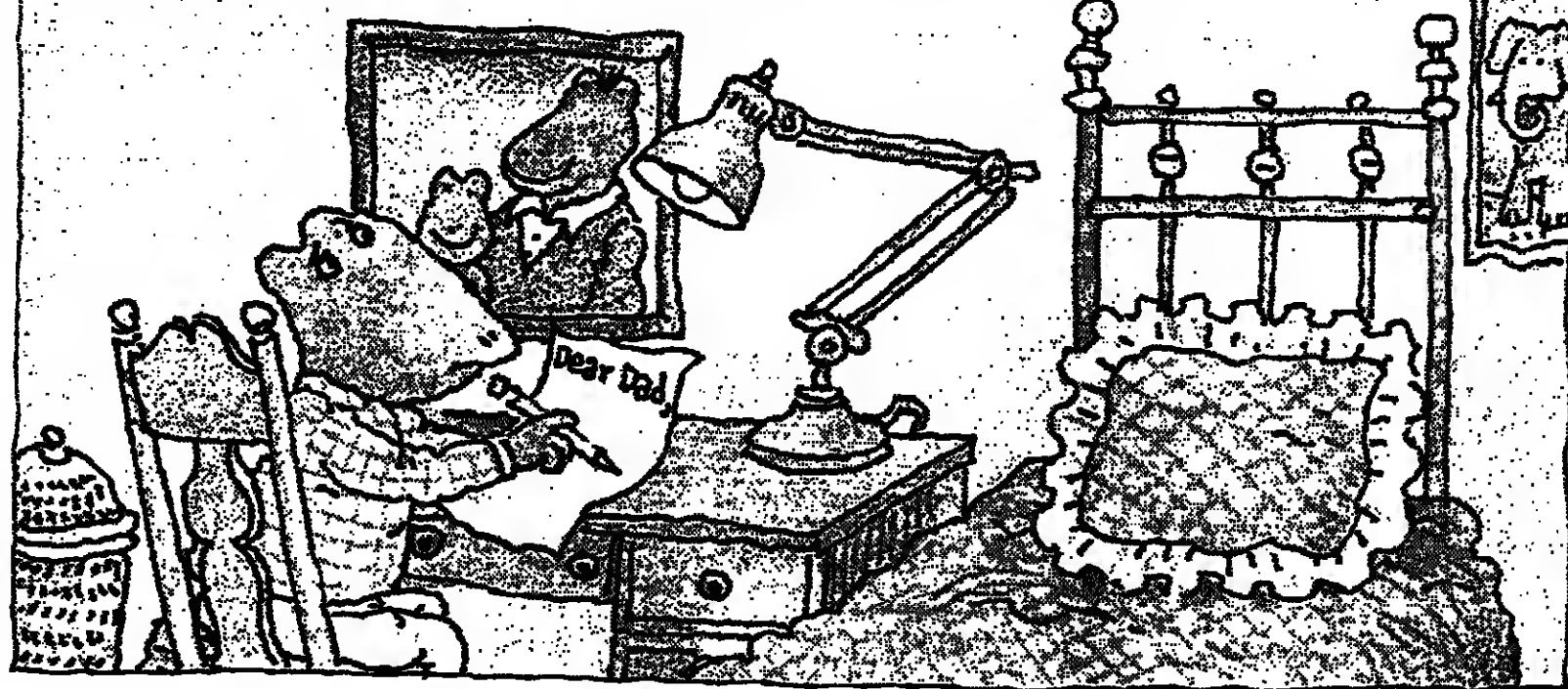
CRAIG BROWN

Once there

Cultural QUIZZES

WEDNESDAY PAGE

Luke misses his dad. Writing him letters makes him feel closer.



Once upon a time there was a divorce

Once upon a time there was a family of dinosaurs who had funny green faces and long tails but otherwise were just like you and me.

The little dinosaurs were very, very sad and cried a lot. And when Mummy and Daddy got married again to other people and they had stepbrothers and sisters it was even more confusing.

That in a nutshell is the story of Dinosaur Divorce, A Guide for Changing Families (which includes the illustration above), and a fable for our times.

It is an example of a boom area in children's publishing: "special situations" books, which tackle everything from having an eye test and the arrival of a new baby to separation, step-parenting and sexual abuse.

There are now so many such books that Tony Bradman, author and consultant to Parents magazine, has written a guide to the field called I Need a Book!

The best, he says, can be an enormous help in getting families to talk about difficult areas, provided books are already part of family life.

"I think if you look on them as anything more than aids to discussion you are in trouble. No book, however sincere and well-meaning, can tackle the dynamics of a marriage breaking up where the problem might have been around for years."

Books which explain family and personal problems to children are publishing's newest boom area. Liz Gill reads on...

The best ones are those which are well and sensitively written with a touch of humour, which makes the books entertaining in themselves and helps keep a sense of proportion.

Bradman, a father of three, advises avoiding books that contain ambiguities or those that raise more issues than you might wish to address. He also warns: "A lot of psycho-babble has crept in, particularly in adolescent books. I saw an American one that raised the subjects of abortion, virginity, nuclear war and menstrual cramps in the first three pages."

"Sometimes a book can create a problem. I heard of one little girl who was given a book on coping with fears of the dark. Till then she'd never thought there was anything to be afraid of. I get sick to death, too, of all these new baby-arriving books that go on and on about the difficult times ahead. For a lot of children it's no big deal."

Many of the classic children's stories already deal with "special situations". What better illustration of sibling rivalry than Cinderella, or of family troubles than Hansel and Gretel? They also have stereotypes of course," Bradman says. "It may be a good idea to get away from the idea that stepmothers are invariably wicked - but Red Riding Hood, for example, is the stranger/danger tale, par excellence."

Julia Eccleshare, selector of Children's Books of the Year (an annual publication sponsored by the Book Trust), believes the incorporation of "special situations" such as divorce and disability into mainstream fiction is a healthy trend. "It can be very reassuring to know you are not alone,

and it's also very good for children to learn about how other people live. But some of these books are not books, they are just vehicles."

Althea Braithwaite wrote her book on divorce in the aftermath of her own marriage break-up, when her son Duncan was aged 10. "He asked me for a book on the subject and the only one we could find was an American one called My Dad Lives in a Downtown Hotel, which wasn't very appropriate for someone living in a village 12 miles outside Cambridge."

Since then she has become a specialist in the field, with 20 books to her credit on subjects such as death, disability and going to the doctor. She researches meticulously and remains unperturbed by the fashionable middle-class jibe that a child who gets an Althea book is in for something nasty.

She says: "We constantly underestimate our children's ability to deal with serious issues. Death, for instance, is still the big taboo, like sex used to be, but when I go into schools the children really want to talk about it. Besides not talking about something, whispering, or shutting up when a child comes into the room, can make a child feel something is worse than it is."

Braithwaite is working on a story about childhood cancer - "so many children survive these days that when they go back to school everyone's terrified of them" - and would like to do one on AIDS.

Michele Elliott, author and founder of Kidscape, the child abuse prevention programme, is working on a book for the under-fives. It centres on a granny because research with children identified her as the person they

would be most likely to confide in. It only involves a secret kiss, but she believes it will raise important issues in an innocuous way.

"You don't need to educate children away from their innocence to give them strategies," she says. "You can be low key and still get your concerns across."

She is against books that handle sexual abuse in a very explicit way being read by children who have not been abused: "I might use them with children who have suffered because often they don't understand what has happened. But most children are not abused and these images can be very frightening."

Margaret Robinson, a therapist and conciliator at the Institute of Family Therapy in London, advised on the English edition of Dinosaur Divorce. She has recommended it to friends and used it professionally. She says: "I don't think concepts like guilt are too complex for a small child. They might not know the word, but it's very common for them to think Daddy has gone away because they've been naughty."

"But the book must be good. Some are simply appalling and don't understand the child's point of view. I particularly like animals because they're indirect."

No one I spoke to attributed anything but the best of motives to parents who sought help from books. Was there never, for instance in the case of divorce, an element of self-justification?

Bradman thinks not, but he does say that the books may jar on the child. "The truth is that, however rough things are, children don't want their parents to split up and it may be that to have a book saying how everything is going to be all right really goes against the grain."

Dinosaur Divorce, by Laurence Kussy Brown and Marc Brown, published by Collins, £5.95. © Times Newspapers Ltd 1988

Dedicated to the bebop baroness

Pannonica de Koenigswarter, who died last week, was rich, aristocratic, and a vital part of New York's jazz scene



In time: Nica and (inset) Charlie Parker, who died in her suite

A mixture of mild contempt and grudging gratitude is the jazz musician's usual response to the attentions of the hangers-on who have populated his scene since its earliest days.

Some of these people are attracted by jazz's reputation - still thriving - as a music of rebellion. The most rebellious and consequently the most persistently influential period in jazz occurred during the early 1940s in New York, when Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, Thelonious Monk, Charlie Mingus, Bud Powell and a few others invented the reckless, revolutionary music known first as bebop and later simply as modern jazz.

Known throughout the jazz fraternity as Nica, the late baroness was born a Rothschild. Her natural aristocratic social ease, her sensitive appreciation of modern artistic trends, and - perhaps not least - her unlimited wealth gave Nica a unique entrée into the tight, self-protective world of bebop.

A good-looking sports-woman and intellectual, Nica had been introduced to jazz through her brother, Victor, himself an able pianist (he had been taught, in an informal way, by the great Benny Goodman sideman, Teddy Wilson). In 1951 she became bored with her marriage to the Baron Jules de Koenigswarter, a high-ranking French diplomat, and quit their undemanding posting in Mexico for the excitement and jazz-filled atmosphere of New York.

She made her new home at the Hotel Stanhope, a luxury establishment on Fifth Avenue, commuting from there to the night-clubs of Broadway and 52nd Street by chauff-

I'm surrounded by 70 cats. God help us both if they all start mewing at once!

As well as critical appreciation, Nica offered musicians more direct forms of support, offering her exclusive ground-floor suite as a combination of all-night jazz club and freeloader's diner. In return, they paid her the rare compliment of dedicating tunes: Thelonious Monk's "Pannonica", Horace Silver's "Nica's Dream" and Gigi Gryce's "Nica's Tempo" were among the tributes paid by a generally unselfish friend.

Nica etched her name on one of the most vivid and enduring of all jazz legends, when she provided the death bed for Charlie Parker, modern jazz's greatest innovator. Parker's demise, while watching a juggler on TV, was briefly given Nica a wide public profile ("Pop King Dies In Heiress's Flat", screamed one of the Manhattan blats), but such visibility was never among her ambitions.

By coincidence, earlier this year and before I had heard of Clint Eastwood's film Bird, I began work on a play about Parker's last hours in Nica's

flat. Hoping to talk to her, I traced Nica to a phone number in Weehawken, New Jersey. The soft voice that answered explained, following my brief introduction, that he was the butler and would put the baroness on the line.

Would she mind me using her in my play, I asked, and could I interview her? She had no problems about being represented on the stage, she said, but - and she was emphatic here - she had stopped giving interviews 30 years ago and had no desire to change her mind now. At that moment my two cocker spaniels began barking and I apologized for the noise. "Forget it," Nica said warmly. "I'm sitting in my bedroom surrounded by 70 cats. God help us both if they all start mewing at once."

In that throwaway remark, I glimpsed the personality cherished by Parker, Monk and many other great jazz musicians, an insight confirmed with the last letter she sent me. She had used three different coloured felt tips to thank me for a book I had sent. Writing from "The Cathouse", Nica went on to say that Eastwood had only sent her pictures of the actress playing her after filming, and had made her look like a horse. She would sue... of course. And there was a further invitation to have a drink in a club with her the next time I was in New York. I was making plans to do it in the new year when I heard of her death. Too late for the whisky sour, but I shall still write the play.

Barry Fantoni

Cultural quizzes

December is quiz month at the National Gallery, with free brain-teasers daily for adults and children. "After Dark" explores images of night and darkness, and encourages children to discover the work of Guido Reni and Pissarro. "Heavens Above", for adults, takes heavenly creatures as its theme. The children's quiz can be collected from the Quiz Desk at the Orange Street entrance from December 17; the adult one from the Information Desk from next Monday. There will also be Round

Robin talks in the galleries and free guided tours with a seasonal touch, focusing on nativity paintings.

Just crackers

Quality children's crackers are hard to find (He-Man and Transformer variety aside) and many grown-ups prefer them to adult ones containing worthy but dull items such as handkerchiefs and nail files. Fortnum & Mason has some charming Guards crackers in boxes of six for £12.50 - shiny foil soldiers complete with bearskins and moustache - or a single giant Guard cracker with enough gifts for a tableful of the young at heart. They are

BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

also worth snapping up for birthday parties since they are one of the few non-seasonal designs.

Star verse

Learn more about the favourite childhood poems of celebrities in A Child At Heart (£2.99), the second edition of an anthology of poems picked by well-known people to be-

fit the British Heart Foundation and the Newsenders' Benevolent Institution. It began as a class project by 10-year-old pupils at Seymour Junior School, Manchester, and is available through branches of Menzies, W.H. Smith and other newsgents.

Neil Kinnock's is "They walked this road in seasons past/When all the skies were overcast/They breathed defiance as they went/Along those troubled hills of Gwent"; Sir Robin Day likes "I wandered lonely as a cloud..."; Jan Leeming is nostalgic about "If I should die, think only this of me..."; Princess Alexandra selected "Silver" by Walter de la Mare; and Raymond Briggs chose his own "Fungus the Bogeyman".

Quote me...



"Edwina Currie is, in my opinion, an extremely valuable member of the health team and of the Government. It may be that many members of this house are envious of her natural gift of obtaining publicity." Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health

Dirty linen

Apparently we no longer have time to even throw our clothes into a washing machine, let alone wait for the spin dry. So the Association of British Laundries has come up with an inspired time-saver: Laundry Maid gift tokens. A £5 token will allow the fortunate recipient to arrange one laundry collection and delivery service from his or her local domestic laundry. Telephone 01-863 9178 for details.

Ethnic exotica

Silver jewellery from Thai hill tribes and woven Burmese kalagas are among the exotic gifts to be found at Ends of the Earth. Its Christmas exhibition and sale continues until December 24 at The Bookshop, 32 Thames Street, Hampton, Middlesex every day including Sunday, or send for a catalogue with an SAE to PO Box 31, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 2NW (01-979 9979). The jewellery costs from £5, the kalagas - richly embroidered collages of mythological figures in padded relief, with sequins, braid, glass and velvet - from £15. Janet Willoughby, managing director, scavenges across the world for bargains, and her latest coup is Lan Na shawls in the design of the ancient Lan Na Kingdom of northern Thailand, hand-woven by villagers for the shop for £25.

Clunk clic

Makers of Le Clic, the colourfully sporty camera, have produced a new "Tuff All-weather" variation for around £60. It resists rain, dust and sand, and even floats. And specially designed for junior photographers are brightly coloured, sturdy Kodak Gimini cameras at £9.95.

Partridge pair

On the first day of Christmas... give your true love some partridge pate in a painted partridge pot - from a selection of animal terrines at Fortnum & Mason. Choose from deer, hare, pheasant and duck from £13.50. They can be sent by express post for an additional £5 postage and packing. And Fortnum's hampers can be sent anywhere in the UK, from £17.50 to £1,500. The latter includes crackers with sterling silver gifts and fresh Beluga caviar.

Victoria McKee

HOME IMPROVEMENTS: KITCHENS

How we had our dream kitchen planned free - and saved £1,352.42 too!

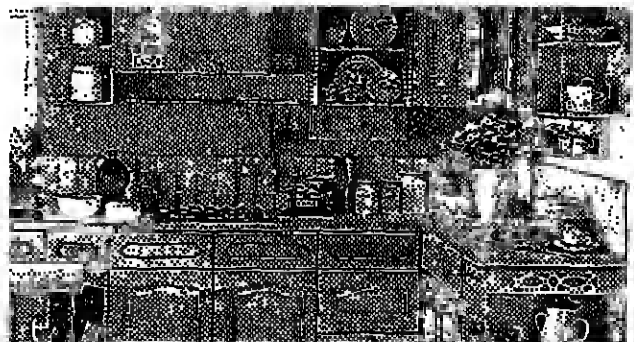
'EITHER THAT kitchen goes or I go,' was my welcome home from Jill the other night. She'd had the cutlery all over the floor out of that sticky drawer, 'and as for that door under the sink that won't stay shut - look at my shins.'

New wives being in shorter supply than new kitchens, we found ourselves at our local Magnet on Saturday morning.

From their range of 21 kitchens, we decided to go for the Minister Oak. I think it was the combination of two things - the lasting quality of Oak, and the appealing variations of grain and colour used in the unit fronts.

Quality

Terry, Magnet's kitchen planner, was most helpful. First he took us over to the built-up Minister Oak kitchen on display. He asked us to look closely at the finish. 'Try the doors' (which opened and closed with a satisfying 'clunk') and the drawers (which glided in and out as if on rollers).



Our new Minister Oak from Magnet. Normally it would have cost £3,381.05 - but on special offer at less 40%, we paid £2,028.63, a saving of £1,352.42!

by Owen Mathews

Then he sat us down and set to work, after explaining that planning was a FREE service, with no obligation. Jill pulled out the sketch I'd done with the measurements of our kitchen. Then Terry turned to his computer, asking us questions as he worked.

"Happy"

Where did we want our hob? Here? Or would we prefer it there? And our main work surface? Mmm, a bit far away from the sink, he thought. So shouldn't we try it over here? Fine.

Next thing our new kitchen appeared on the computer's drawingboard. Not one of those flat plans you see on graph paper, but a proper perspective plan as if we were standing at the door looking into the room. "Happy?" Yes we were, very.

40% off

Frankly I was astounded at how reasonable it was - a little over £2,000. Now we play a little game with our friends: what do they think it cost us? Lowest guess so far? £4,500!

So if you're thinking of doing up your own kitchen, take a look at any one of Magnet's 241 branches nationwide. To find the address of the store nearest to you simply ring 0800 300 321 - the call is free. I'm quite sure you'll find something there to suit you too.



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TIMES DIARY MARTIN FLETCHER

Is it me or is it the Conservative Party that is cynical? Why is it that memorial services for MPs always seem to be held in the week of the by-elections that their deaths have caused?

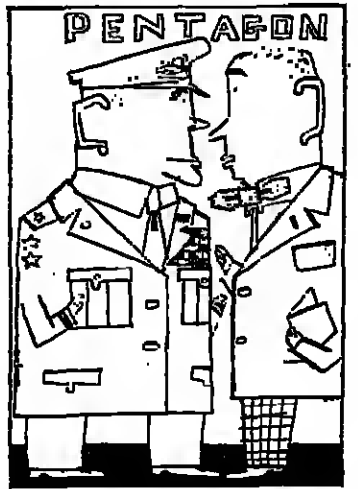
Sir John's memorial service, incidentally, is to be held at Westminster Cathedral, which poses a dilemma for those Unionist MPs whose cause he so fervently supported.

The Labour Party is permanently in financial straits, but matters have now become decidedly serious: its creditors are losing patience. It has an overdraft of roughly £1.5 million, and the Cooperative Bank has demanded that it make a £400,000 surplus next year.

Edwina Currie is the hôte noble of the British egg industry, her Tory colleague Nicholas Soames, is its champion. At 11am each day the Crawley MP eats a raw egg mixed with tabasco, Worcester sauce and a smidgen of sherry, and has done so for many years.

William Hague, the Tory candidate in the forthcoming Richmond by-election, enchanted the Prime Minister when, as a 16-year-old, he addressed the 1977 Tory party conference. He pleaded her less when she met him at a Carlton Club reception the other day.

BARRY FANTONI



'Red Alert, Red Alert... peace is about to break out'

What do you give to the wife of the second most powerful man in the world if your upper limit is £50? That is the problem facing Kenneth Baker, the Education Secretary, who will be escorting Raisa Gorbachov around London next week.

In the old days it would have made headline news. Nowadays it only just scrapes into diaries. Humphry Berkeley has changed parties yet again. Tory MP for Lancaster for seven years, he fought North Fylde for Labour in 1974 and Southend East for the SDP in 1987.

The "greening" of politics and water privatization has inevitably thrust Nicholas Ridley, the Environment Secretary, into the limelight. One recurring line of the many newspaper profiles is that he is an expert embroiderer.

John Wakeham, Leader of the House, will soon issue a Commons written answer with alarming implications. Tory MP Andrew Mackay had his camelhair overcoat stolen from the Members' Cloakroom the other day.

Nato is at last getting its act together in the most difficult area of arms control: the reduction of conventional forces. In Brussels this week foreign ministers will study a detailed package of arms-cut proposals which have been drawn up by officials after months of often acrimonious debate within the alliance.

Until now the Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachov, has made all the running. At the Washington summit last December he proposed to President Reagan that the imbalance between the two sides - such as the Soviet superiority in tanks and artillery - should be sorted out, followed by a cut in troop levels of 500,000 on each side.

It was one of Gorbachov's grand gestures. But in arms control terms it was meaningless. Where was the detail? Which tanks would be agreed to remove? Would they be the ones peering over the border in East Germany in combat-ready units?

Nato military chiefs have always emphasized that merely reducing numbers would not lead to greater security. The object is to eliminate the ability to carry out a surprise attack and breakthrough, a capability which the Warsaw Pact countries currently have.

Michael Evans assesses the conflicting approaches to troop cuts

Fine sums in no man's land

reducing numbers would not lead to greater security. The object is to eliminate the ability to carry out a surprise attack and breakthrough, a capability which the Warsaw Pact countries currently have.

Nato's task was clearly to counter the Gorbachov offer with some detailed proposals. These are now nearing completion. Officials in Brussels today will be attempting to finalize the package so that it can be studied by the foreign ministers at the North Atlantic Council meeting tomorrow and Friday.

It has not been an easy exercise. Some Nato members, such as Norway and Turkey, have expressed concern that too much attention was being focused on forces in Central Europe. They have a legitimate argument. If there are to be cuts, they must be shared equally, so that the north and south flanks benefit too.

The Nato package also has to

satisfy several criteria. It must be equitable, fair and sustainable. It must also be presented in a way that will be easily digested by the general public.

Gorbachov has already agreed the basic principle that the side with most weapons and capabilities will also have to make the biggest cuts. But if the Nato proposals are weighted too heavily against the Soviet Union, Gorbachov will be able to reject them without losing much face.

So Nato has to offer something in return. One proposal, which seems likely to meet with the foreign ministers' approval, is for each side to scale down to 20,000 tanks. That would mean a 10 per cent reduction for Nato, if the stored tanks are included.

On the face of it, Nato has little to offer Gorbachov in terms of force reductions, because all the advantages are on the side of the Warsaw Pact. The Soviet military keep arguing that Nato has more "strike" aircraft. But that argument holds water only if you remove from the counting rules all the Soviet aircraft assigned to an air defence role.

However, the alliance holds

one trump card. The choice of Gorbachov as Soviet leader in 1985 signalled the Politburo's recognition that the Soviet Union was in deep trouble, especially economically.

This remains Gorbachov's greatest political asset... and also the West's. For it is clear that, above all, Gorbachov has to avoid large increases in military expenditure as the Soviet economy is revived.

On the face of it, Nato has little to offer Gorbachov in terms of force reductions, because all the advantages are on the side of the Warsaw Pact. The Soviet military keep arguing that Nato has more "strike" aircraft.

So the foundation for an equitable arms control agreement already exists. Gorbachov

may dispute the force comparisons published by Nato last month which claimed Warsaw Pact superiority in every field. But he cannot afford to reject out of hand a proposal for both sides to have equal numbers of tanks and artillery.

Although Nato now appears to be better prepared for the battle ahead, especially if the foreign ministers are able to approve the Brussels package, there is one unknown factor which causes anxiety within the alliance.

What if Gorbachov were to make some unilateral gesture, such as the withdrawal of a division or two from Eastern Europe? Would this severely test the cohesion of the alliance?

It cannot be ruled out. Perhaps Gorbachov might hint at such a move when he addresses the United Nations General Assembly in New York today. But it seems unlikely. Facing serious domestic problems and a continuing reluctance on the part of the Soviet military to give anything away, he can ill afford to be too generous to Nato without getting something in return.

Ms Thatcher is accused of over-reaction in her dealings with the Belgian and Irish governments over the Ryan extradition affair.

Ms Thatcher is accused of over-reaction in her dealings with the Belgian and Irish governments over the Ryan extradition affair. Somchow, we never seem to hear about under-reaction to a terrorist campaign. Yet it may be that under-reaction, combined with incessant warnings against the dangers of over-reaction, has done more than anything else to enable the Provisional IRA to sustain its terrorist offensive for nearly two decades.

Mrs Thatcher has, in the past, been uncertain in some of her responses to terrorism, as in her government's deplorable response when the Libyan embassy became a base for terrorist activity in the heart of London. On Northern Ireland, she and her senior advisers, about four years ago, began to listen to the siren song of John Hume, leader of the SDLP. The song is entitled "The Alienation of the Minority". The singer implores the Government to end this alienation, in which case peace and harmony will ensue.

In short, the best way to combat the IRA is through concessions to Northern Ireland's Catholics. And these concessions often turn out to be measures - like the abolition of supergrass trials - which in fact make it harder to combat the IRA.

When she signed the Anglo-Irish Agreement at Hillsborough just over three years ago, Mrs Thatcher was listening to that song, captivated by the melody, and not quite understanding the words. As time went on, however, she seems to have become aware - though without acknowledging the fact - that she had been conned.

For the British, "ending the alienation of the minority" implied that the Catholic/nationalist minority, once certain grievances had been removed, would become loyal British citizens, co-operating with the security forces. But for the Catholic/nationalist side, the end of alienation meant something quite different. It meant a prolonged agenda, consisting of a series of official concessions to them, without their ever co-operating with the security forces in the struggle against the IRA.

After Enniskillen, the Government changed course, without announcing it. The idea of fighting the IRA by actually fighting was back in favour. The belief that the best way to combat the IRA was through concessions to the "constitutional nationalists" had been discredited, as a result of bitter experience.

It is against that background that Mrs Thatcher's sharpish treatment of Charles Haughey over Ryan has to be seen. Once it was apparent that the Hillsborough agreement in its effects inside Northern Ireland, had failed, then almost all that remained in its favour, from a British point of view, was as an instrument for security co-operation between London and Dublin.

After all, it was not some wet but Mrs Thatcher herself who boasted in the Commons in June 1983 that the increase in child benefit to its highest ever real value was "evidence of our commitment to the family". It was she who emphasized that any system of taxing child benefit "would inevitably be more complicated than the present system".

That is the growing belief of some in the Treasury and of Tories who buy the "Duchess of Westminster" argument that we don't need an expensive benefit that goes to the super-rich along with the struggling. But their

Conor Cruise O'Brien

Discord that pays dividends



anger, her expression of that anger, in dealing with Haughey, has been counter-productive, since it united the opposition and Irish public opinion behind him. But while plausible, this interpretation is superficial, as Haughey knows better than anyone. Those who blame Mrs Thatcher today may blame Haughey tomorrow.

Ambivalence tends to manifest itself in successive and contradictory ways. This has appeared in the course of Anglo-Irish relations over the last 30 years. Anti-British peaks - for example, immediately after Bloody Sunday in 1972, and after the deaths of the hunger strikers - are followed, not indeed by pro-British peaks, but by sustained efforts, on the Irish side, to get relations back to normal.

That Anglo-Irish relations should be good is even more important for the Irish than for the British. At the time of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, polls showed that it was overwhelmingly popular in the Republic, not because people thought it would help in Northern Ireland - few believed it would - but because they thought it would put relations between Dublin and London on a more satisfactory basis.

That is why the agreement was, and is, popular in the Republic, and why Haughey did not attempt to dismantle it. If Haughey's handling of the extradition question is felt to be causing a substantial deterioration in Anglo-Irish relations, then his leadership is likely to be called into question once more. The fact that he is again taking a stand that is popular with the IRA will not, if sustained, be popular with most of his voters.

In short, if Anglo-Irish relations are to improve, in the longer term, then periods of disimprovement in the shorter term may help towards better understanding and better co-operation, even in the matter of extradition.

Commentary • ROBIN OAKLEY

Benefit and doubter

The egg affair demonstrates the danger of having Edwina Currie in your team. But the lady does reach the other side of the fence. Child benefit, she said, was "not doing the job it was intended to do". It had been brought in to help children at a time of bad diet and dangerous diseases such as diphtheria and polio. Now many wealthier families no longer needed the money and used it only to foster unhealthy habits.

Leaving aside the question of how rampant diphtheria, polio and malnutrition were when the Labour government in 1977 developed a Tory idea and introduced child benefit, Mrs Currie's implication was clear. Child benefit, frozen for the second year in a row, should be allowed to wither on the vine. Then, after the next election, the 1987 manifesto commitment to continue paying it "as now" can be scrapped and the money sensibly redirected to those in genuine need.

That is the growing belief of some in the Treasury and of Tories who buy the "Duchess of Westminster" argument that we don't need an expensive benefit that goes to the super-rich along with the struggling. But their

conviction that child benefit is on the way out may be a little premature. They have not reckoned with the corps of Conservatives who, with the group of Tory MPs and at least one minister who are prepared to put their careers on the line on this issue. And can they really be sure of one key factor - having the leader of the "party of the family" with them?

After all, it was not some wet but Mrs Thatcher herself who boasted in the Commons in June 1983 that the increase in child benefit to its highest ever real value was "evidence of our commitment to the family". It was she who emphasized that any system of taxing child benefit "would inevitably be more complicated than the present system".

And it was Mrs Thatcher who made the case for child benefit as concisely as anyone when she told MPs: "It has for long been the view of all parties that our tax and benefit system should recognize the needs of families with children, and should differentiate between such families and those without responsibilities for children. Child tax allowances achieved this but gave no help to families below the tax threshold. Family allowances did not recognize the first child. Child benefit, which replaced both allowances, was introduced with the support of all parties."

Child benefit for some 12 million children goes to about 6.8 million households at a cost of nearly £5 billion a year. It is universal, tax-free and ill-targeted. It doesn't help the poorest

point of some significance in our divorce-ridden society when a deserted mother may suddenly be left penniless with mouths to feed. Take-up is 100 per cent compared with the 50 or 60 per cent take-up of means-tested benefits such as family income supplement which can mean that children go hungry because of parents' pride or ignorance.

In many ways it seems logical that child benefit should be taxed. That could save some £1 billion a year for spending on the truly needy. But how easy will it be for the "party of the family", after all its tax-cutting, to start taxing families with children more than families without children?

Those who have discussed the issues at regional conferences and women's club suppers have no doubt that the legions of Tory women are ready to swing into action again if the future of child benefit is threatened. And in a parliamentary session which leaves potential Tory rebels little to bite on save soccer identity cards, child benefit unites voices from the Tory left and right.

There is a perfectly respectable case for scrapping child benefit, if the decision is accompanied by the right action to meet the accompanying problems. What is making the Tory troops restless is that they keep getting a whiff of plans to do away with the benefit without being given any clear idea of what might replace it. If the Government does want to move in that direction, for the time being, it should come to the aid of those behind the arras and make those arguments openly.

DEC 7 ON THIS DAY 1882

When Anthony Trollope died The Times printed not only a long obituary (of which this is an extract), but also a leading article. In each case his novels were examined critically and, in the main, favourably. Both articles also praised his human qualities. Many authors are admired but by no means all are liked, even loved.

ANTHONY TROLLOPE

Our readers will bear with deep regret of the death of Mr Anthony Trollope. Seized suddenly at the dinner table, only a very few weeks ago, with something in the nature of a paralytic attack, from the first, anxiety was felt as to his recovery.

Mr Trollope was far from being an old man, and might well have looked forward to further years of activity. He was born on the 24th of April in the famous "Waterloo year", and was a son of the gifted lady who wrote "Widow Barnaby", and whose observations on the manners of our Transatlantic kinsfolk caused such dire indignation to the citizens of the Union. He had been educated at Winchester and Harrow, and shortly after leaving school, was appointed to a clerkship in the Post Office.

Of his novels we must say that he was never guilty of the deadly mistake of becoming dull by aiming at being over-deep or metaphysical, and he had cultivated the faculty of being entertaining. And within certain definite limits, though the limits were by no means narrow, the range of versatility was wonderful. The books that first brought him substantial profit and fame were "The Warden", and "Bar-

chester Towers", which are ecclesiastical rather than religious. We might have fancied that the author had been swaddled in swaddles and cradled to the caving of the rocks in some shady cathedral clove. When asked how he managed to make himself so at home among the clergy, he answered that he had trusted less to knowledge than to invention. As for his doctors, what can be better than his representations of consultations and death-bed scenes? He has enriched our English fiction with characters destined to survive... There is that most autochthonous among ecclesiastical dignitaries, the Rev Mrs Proudie, the very much better half of the Bishop of Barchester. There are fascinating scamps like Mr Sowerby and commercial travellers like Moulders; there are nouveau riches like Scatterhead and strong-minded spinsters like Miss Dunstable; and such embodiments of maidenly beauty and good-humoured innocence as Lucy Robarts and Grace Crawley and Lily Dale, which surprise us as being realized rather than idealized by a middle-aged gentleman. In our opinion and, we believe, in his own, the most perfect novel Mr Trollope ever wrote was his "Last Chronicle of Barset", and its chief defect was the introduction of a subsidiary story to spin it out to the regulation three-volume length. Mr Trollope has gone, and it will be hard to fill his place as the highest among the contributors of fiction to our most popular periodicals. But those who will miss him most are the many personal friends to whom he was endeared by his kindly nature and his genial manners; and we cannot resist a melancholy suspicion that he had relaxed a little sooner he might have been spared to us the longer...



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

THE BIG SACK

For one respected City institution the waves from the Big Bang of October 1986 and the Big Crash of October 1987 have reached the edge of the pool; 450 dealers and support staff from the once great banking house of Morgan Grenfell are to lose their jobs.

The sackings yesterday were no more than the City had been expecting. The amount of business which is currently available to the securities houses is a mere fraction of that which they need to cover their overheads.

All the big houses have been holding back, waiting for somebody else to admit defeat. The news that the first to lose its nerve was Morgan Grenfell will raise few eyebrows inside the Square Mile. The company had ambitions beyond its means. But the loss to market-making of so prestigious a name will certainly bring home to outsiders how risky the City became after Big Bang. Those who envied the fast cars and salaries of the dealers may now take a rather different attitude to their letters of notice.

Estimates of the degree of losses being suffered by the securities industry as a whole run up to £500 million a year. None of the big firms is making an adequate return on capital. Across the City, from Docklands to Victoria, vast, expensive dealing rooms stand, not idle, but half empty. A system designed to handle £2.5 billion of share trading every day is barely ticking over at half that level.

One leading securities house, Barclays de Zoete Wedd, has admitted that it costs £750,000 per day to cover its overheads, to keep its screens alight and its dealers at their desks. At present, the commission income of the whole City is only twice that figure.

To trace the origins of today's troubles one has to look behind Big Bang to the deal done between the Government and the former chairman of the Stock Exchange, Sir Nicholas Goodison. Until two years ago, stockbrokers operated as a large cottage industry, with great economy of capital and still greater restrictive

practices. To cut short a legal action over those practices, the Stock Exchange agreed to allow outsiders to move into and break up the established cartel.

Into an edifice, supported perhaps by £500 million of partnership capital, there roared clearing banks, American, European and Japanese finance houses. They pumped in billions, inflating salaries and spending wildly on offices and computers.

They made the mistake, as Morgan Grenfell made the mistake, of believing that business would grow and grow. For a while, they appeared to be right. In the months after Big Bang, business soared.

Commission income, however, was always hard to come by. The big investing institutions, the pension funds and the insurance companies, played one hungry investment house off against another and extracted tighter and tighter terms of trade. When Big Bang turned to Big Crash on October 19 1987, their income crumbled.

The big eight securities houses which account for three quarters of the business are likely to stand their ground and slug it out. Like the corner grocers of a generation ago, however, the smaller firms, even those owned by wealthy conglomerates, are set to see their position steadily worsen. For the American banks, it will be a familiar pattern. The same thing happened on Wall Street in the 1970s.

Again, just like the supermarkets, market shares will be decided by a combination of price and service. The price war has already begun. The big market makers are forced to "narrow the spread" (the difference between bid and offered prices) to buy the business.

This does nothing to generate additional business. It merely redistributes it around the increasingly desperate players. Job losses in the City, already counted in thousands, may reach 50,000. But when capacity is brought more into line with demand, those that remain will be all the healthier for it.

CALCULATING ERRORS

The miscalculation at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital which led to 207 patients being given excessive doses of radiation was a tragic accident. The health authority has accepted "a breach of duty" as well as 21 recommendations for the future.

It is to be hoped that the action taken locally and the measures introduced nationally by the Department of Health will restore public confidence in both the hospital and the therapy involved. That may not be easy.

The failures occurred at almost every stage. The overdoses were caused by a wrongly calibrated telecobalt machine. This implies an error by the man who was responsible and an inadequate system for checking and cross-checking the instrumentation.

This has been partially attributed to staff shortages. In a department treating as many as 1,600 patients annually, there should have been two medical physicists plus the head of the department. In fact there was only one — and a departmental chief who was qualified in a related discipline rather than the precise one of radio-therapy.

Whatever the strength of this factor, the original fault was compounded by an inexplicable delay, first in realizing that anything was wrong and then in identifying the cause of it. Even after a staff nurse reported alarming symptoms among some of the patients in her charge, almost a fortnight elapsed before the faulty calibration was detected.

A further 10 days went by before the errors in dosage were made known. The full scale of the disaster did not become clear until yesterday

when the two official reports were finally published. According to one of the reports, by Professor Sir Bryan Thwaites, the confusion over numbers arose because of the failure of consultants to check all their patients' notes.

The insensitive way in which the patients were allowed to learn (through television) of the error, suggests a failing which lies beyond the realm of manpower and money. It implies a bureaucratic failure which has been apparent throughout this unhappy affair.

There remains the sensitive issue of compensation. This should be both swift and generous. Given the authority's readiness to meet its obligations, there is no reason why in this case it should not be so.

But the events serve to resurrect the question of a national "no fault" compensation scheme as put forward by the Pearson Commission 10 years ago. Operated as a form of insurance, funded by the medical and pharmaceutical organizations, it would provide those who have suffered through medical accidents, a speedier and surer form of compensation than at present.

Victims too often have to start litigation to prove liability — and risk heavy legal costs. A "no fault" scheme would cut waiting time and ensure that the money went directly to the victim, and not to teams of lawyers.

Yesterday's statement by Mrs Currie on behalf of the Department of Health acknowledged that there were lessons to be learnt. That is true. But a more equitable general scheme of compensation deserves adding to the Government's agenda.

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

Each utterance from the National Curriculum Council produces howls of unreasonable protest in reply. If Mr Kenneth Baker is really aiming to produce a nation of guaranteed Nobel and Booker prize-winners, he will, indeed, turn out a failure. If by more modest criteria he is to be judged, he stands to succeed.

When his distinguished predecessor, Sir Keith Joseph, laid the foundations for both the national curriculum and the GCSE, employers were becoming increasingly disturbed at the educational standards of school-leavers. They were demanding that 16-year-olds applying for jobs were literate and numerate, understood the new technologies and had a grasp of basic science. Parents simply wanted their children to do as well as they could.

That is what the national curriculum, with its accompanying assessment tests, is setting out to achieve. The pressure groups are already hard at work to prove that higher aims are not being met.

The Engineering Council led the attack yesterday, accusing Mr Baker of creating a loophole in the national curriculum by insisting that some pupils should spend less time studying science than others. Mr Jack Straw, riding on their coat-tails, has claimed wildly that the proposed new "short science course" was being used as a way of solving teacher shortages.

Their argument is that the short course of 12.5 per cent of the timetable undermines the notion of science for all and will not prepare people for A levels in the single sciences so that they can move on to university. Until now, however, many pupils have been doing no science at all. The short course might encourage young people eventually to choose a career in science — something they would never have considered before.

These same reluctant scientists could easily

have been put off science altogether had they been forced to attend classes taking up time that could have been better spent by them learning a modern language. The really keen scientist can spend even more than 20 per cent of his time in the school laboratory by using some of the 30 per cent of the timetable that will fall outside the national curriculum.

Critics originally complained that the national curriculum would dominate the timetable, squeezing out minority subjects and inhibiting innovation. They now seem to be saying that insufficient time is being allowed for their own favoured subjects.

The National Curriculum Council itself insisted on rehearsing the arguments as to why the "long science" course would be better. This point is readily accepted. But Mr Baker also has to accept realistically that the majority of pupils will opt for the short course because it fits more easily with other pressing demands on school time.

Despite the best efforts of a resistant educational establishment, the Education Reform Act is gradually moving from the statute book into the classroom. The final decisions on the precise nature of science and mathematics courses for five to 16 will be published in the spring, with English and craft design technology following during the year. A working party on history is being set up. Language and geography will follow.

Earlier groups were often not rigorous enough in setting out what children should be taught and too imprecise when it came to setting tasks to determine exactly what children knew. The new groups should accept from the beginning that it is not just Mr Baker who is keen to put traditional methods back in the classroom, even if they do not fit the ideology of the sixties when the educational establishment received its training.

Personal touch

From Mr J. T. Veall

Sir, Almost a year ago (December 11, 1987) Dr Lionel Dakers wrote to the effect that he was unable to quickly identify the senders of quite a number of Christmas cards he received because he could not

remember, for example, John and Mary or their whereabouts.

Perhaps people sending cards to Dr Dakers this year, and who are not too sure that he will remember them, would like to adopt my system and use the ubiquitous printed gummed label, not on the card itself, for to my mind this

destroys the personal touch, but on the inside of the envelope in which the card is despatched, a method which is both discreet and effective.

Yours sincerely,
J. T. VEALL,
17 Harrison Close,
Horncastle, Lincolnshire.
November 25.

Sterilisation without giving consent

From Miss Sarah Leigh

Sir, In your report of December 3 on the case of "F", a severely mentally-handicapped woman of 35 who, a judge has ruled, may be lawfully sterilised, you quoted Sir Brian Rix's call for an inquiry into this case and his disbelief that such an order could be made.

I acted as F's solicitor, on her mother's instructions, in making this application to the court, and protest on her behalf against any suggestion that this decision has not been very carefully made. Everyone concerned has treated F as a patient entitled to medical treatment like other women in the same medical situation, but unable to make her own decision to undergo it. The decision has been made for her with great care by a High Court judge, Mr Justice Scott Baker.

F is having the operation because she needs contraception and other methods are no longer medically possible. Her doctors are no longer prepared to prescribe the contraceptive pill because (apart from her age) tests showed that it was adversely affecting her physical health.

The only alternative would have been to wait until she actually got pregnant, in which case she might have found herself carrying the child for several months before an order to terminate the pregnancy could be obtained. We were advised that this would be dangerous for her health.

F's mother wanted her instead to have a laparoscopic sterilisation (a simple and virtually painless procedure). Her medical and legal advisers all felt that the decision should not be made under acute pressure of time. It took just over six months from the time we were instructed to the making of the order.

We interviewed three doctors

and four courses concerned in her care, most of whom have cared for her for a number of years. We communicated every item of information obtained to the Official Solicitor (who acted as *amicus*) so that any argument against the operation could be ventilated in court.

We instructed an expert a professor in mental handicap who is known to have been resistant to decisions to sterilise in other cases and told her that we wanted an entirely independent report on what was right for F. She read F's medical notes, interviewed her and the people caring for her, and came to the conclusion that sterilisation was the the only sensible solution.

The judge then spent a week listening to evidence from a total of six doctors and one nurse, covering every relevant detail of F's gynaecological and psychiatric needs and treatment and argument from counsel instructed by us, the health authority concerned, and the Official Solicitor. He also came to the conclusion that it was right for F to have the operation.

Sir Brian's concern about the state of the law is entirely understandable; there is no legal machinery for obtaining consent to give non-emergency treatment to patients who cannot themselves consent to it. (There is no one who could lawfully consent to my client taking the contraceptive pill, for example.) This means that mentally-handicapped people do not get access to medical treatment on the same terms as the rest of us. But in this particular case I suggest that the last thing F needs is another inquiry.

Yours faithfully,
SARAH LEIGH,
Leighs (Solicitors),
37 Gray's Inn Road, W.C1.
December 5.

Campus free speech

From Mr Edward Thomas

Sir, It is only a year or so since the Government introduced the "code of conduct" to maintain the principle of free speech in institutions of higher education. However, recent incidents demonstrate that further measures need to be taken in order to combat student rioting.

On December 1, Mr Henri Ranbenheimer spoke at Southampton University on ways of ending apartheid. Since he was a counsellor from the South African Embassy, the meeting was controversial and classified as a "designated event". Towards the end of the meeting the chairman ordered stewards to eject an individual under the "code". Within seconds proceedings had degenerated into a brawl and several stewards were attacked by a number of students.

This event and others, such as the Tebbitt fiasco at North London Polytechnic, indicate that the Government must take action. It is totally unacceptable that students and university administrators acting as stewards should be subjected to this kind of violence. The time has come for the police to assume these law-enforcing responsibilities and ensure that molestation is not allowed to hijack freedom of speech.

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD THOMAS,
Southampton University,
Students Union,
University Road,
Highfield,
Southampton, Hampshire.
December 2.

Opera rebuff

From Mr Denis Vaughan

Sir, Bernard Levio's renunciation (December 2) of half the important operatic repertoire is understandable. Once he has explored an opera completely, revisiting it is like trying to revive an old love affair.

But his feeling of surfeit is really a comment on current performance standards. Very good general standards throughout Europe do not replace the element of the unforgettable, which really should characterise some part of every performance. Every opera at its highest should be a vehicle for this stillness.

If a sense of timelessness is achieved, only for a few moments in an evening's opera, one can return to it untold times, listening through the outer apparatus of the work to the real message of the music inside. The voice can achieve this better than any other instrument.

Dame Joan Sutherland once said to me: "All I'm interested in is being able to float the voice,

which after all is what it's all about". Von Hofmannsthal put it in *Der Rosenkavalier*: "In dem Worts — da liegt der ganze Unterschied" ("in how it is done — there lies the whole difference").

Yours sincerely,
DENIS VAUGHAN,
41 Floral Street, W.C2.
December 2.

False economy

From Professor Emeritus Peter Clemoes

Sir, When I went into a shop the other day I left my bicycle propped against the kerb outside. I spent a good deal of time inside agonizing over two articles with a £20 price difference between them, before deciding that virtue lay in choosing the cheaper.

When I got outside I found my bicycle had been damaged by a passing car. It's costing me £20 to have it put right.

Yours faithfully,
PETER CLEMOES,
14 Church Street,
Chesham, Cambridge.
November 28.

Namibian outlook

From Mr Randolph Vigne

Sir, After ceaseless efforts to discredit Swapo as the national liberation movement of Namibia, the weapons of Mr Robert Chambers (November 24) are unchanged — with his abusive allegations against Swapo, which even the South African Army sees as the future Government of Namibia. The substance of these attacks Swapo has dealt with again and again, often through visits of observer delegations to its exile centres.

Such abuse is juxtaposed with praise for the Namibians who came to terms with South African occupation. Any hope that Mr Chambers's organization will allow the democratic process to be the judge in his case against Swapo

he destroys in advance by impugning United Nations supervision of the forthcoming elections.

On his final statement all will agree: Namibia must indeed be free for its future. The threat of destabilization by South Africa is, in our view, the chief reason for such fearfulness. Friends of Namibia must do all they can to help defend the Namibians against 'destabilization', perhaps first by identifying its agents.

Yours faithfully,
RANDOLPH VIGNE,
Honorary Secretary,
Namibia Support Committee,
PO Box 16,
London, N.W.5.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

Mental care in the community

From Mr Guy Hitchings

Sir, Robert Kilroy-Silk's discussion of mental care (Commentary, December 2) will do little to dispel the "myths, prejudices and fears" to which he refers. This is because he makes the common error of lumping together the mentally ill and the mentally handicapped.

In almost any context, to do this is to mislead. When it comes to community care, the handicapped and the sick present two different sets of problems, and it is important that this be seen to be the case.

If a distinguished journalist can thus misinform a small wonder that the confused citizens of Rye cry havoc, at the presence in their midst of eight individuals with Down's syndrome and other disabilities. These people may be handicapped, but they are affectionate and contented, they are doing useful work, and in no sense whatever are they what Mr Kilroy-Silk calls "mentally disturbed".

The mentally ill, no less than the handicapped, require acceptance and love and tolerance and understanding from the public at large. The first step in that understanding, however, is to recognise that the two groups are not one and the same.

Yours faithfully,
G. E. HITCHINGS,
Spring Bank, Speldhurst,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

From Mr Tom Benyon

Sir, I refer to the correspondence in your columns about care of the mentally ill in the community. The blame for their plight seems to be placed, as ever, on the shoulders of the Government; however a lack of cash and interest at Westminster does not tell the whole story.

Another problem facing those who are discharged from psychiatric hospitals is purblind prejudice from the community at large; many people simply don't want to see those with mental problems in their street, and in the shops; and they certainly don't want them living next door.

Many of the mentally ill often find the pressures of modern living intolerable and so they need the support of residential homes

Doctors' insurance

From Sir Douglas Black and Sir John Ellis

Sir, In stating that the medical profession should be "striving to reduce accidents by training", Mr Simanowitz (November 23) shows a remarkable ignorance of how British doctors are prepared for practice.

All British medical graduates are required, after a university course of at least five years, to undergo lengthy postgraduate training; a minimum of four years for those who become principals in general practice and eight or more for specialists. Trainees learn by participating, with gradually increasing responsibility, in the care of patients, for which they are paid a salary by the NHS.

Over the past two decades the profession (through the royal colleges, professional associations and the universities) has most carefully defined and updated the content and duration of training for each branch of medicine, monitored training programmes, inspected posts and assessed the progress of trainees.

Unfortunately, although GP trainers receive an allowance, NHS consultants are expected to supervise and train their juniors while caring for their patients at the same time.

Those who are still in the process of acquiring knowledge, skill and judgement are likely to make mistakes, and because medicine is so powerful today's errors of commission or omission can be very serious. It is not surprising that although junior doctors make up only 30 per cent of UK-based membership of the Medical Protection Society, they account for over 40 per cent of its costs.

The juniors pay a much reduced subscription for the first six years after qualification and the cost of that reduction, together with the costs of cases brought against them, account for the high premiums asked of the rest.

Whether making the profession

or hostels. That these facilities are too few to cope with the numbers of potential clients is partly because of the difficulties of obtaining planning permission either to establish a unit or to expand an existing one.

The words "psychiatric" and "mentally ill" or "drug abuse" on planning applications draw hysterical complaints to the authorities. *inter alia* a rise in crime levels, drug fears, assaults on children, all hiding the real fear — worries about house values.

There is no evidence that people who have suffered mental illness will be a social nuisance. But this truth is all too often ignored by MPs and councillors and so planning applications are often refused.

So perhaps the health ministers might expose the myth that those who have suffered from mental illness are necessarily any more socially aberrant than the rest of us for the pernicious lie that it is? Yours faithfully,
TOM BENYON (Chairman),
Homecare Residential Services plc,
Tipton Grove, Grove Road,
Brimingham,
Cheshire, Derbyshire,
December 3.

From Dr Nigel Goldie

Sir, Jill Sherman, your Social Services Correspondent (report, November 23) quotes me as providing evidence that supports the campaign by the National Schizophrenia Fellowship against the closure of mental hospitals.

Certainly, in a recent study of what has happened to a group of former long-stay patients, I found abundant evidence of deprivation and a failure of community support for people who have been disabled by their experiences of long-term hospitalisation.

However, what I did not find was a desire to be living in hospital. Instead there was a general affirmation of the enormous sense of accomplishment and often pleasure to be had from living independently, despite the odds against doing so.

Yours sincerely,
N. GOLDIE,
South Bank Polytechnic,
103 Borough Road, SE1.
November 29.

pay for the inescapable errors of training is morally justifiable is questionable, especially when it is not in its power to alter the deteriorating conditions under which the risk of making mistakes and the difficulty of maintaining close supervision are steadily increasing.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS BLACK (President,
Medical Protection Society,
1982-83),
JOHN ELLIS (President, 1985-88),
Medical Protection Society,
50 Hallam Street, W1.
November 25.

From the Secretary of the British Medical Association

Sir, It is wrong to suggest that the medical profession is advocating a system of no-fault compensation in order to reduce the insurance premiums that doctors pay. The BMA has always emphasised that the system we seek should not prevent individuals from taking a doctor to court. It would, however, help those who have suffered injury but cannot gain redress through the law.

The issue of medical indemnity is complex. It is for this reason that the BMA has asked that the matter be referred to a select committee of the House of Commons for the detailed consideration it deserves.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HAVARD, Secretary,
British Medical Association,
BMA House,
Tavistock Square, W.C1.

Ward courtesies

From Mr Douglas Lowndes

Sir, During my recent short stay in hospital, the consultants addressed me as "Sir", and the nurses as "Mr Lowndes". I found this very satisfactory.

My GP, however, always calls me "Hello". I hope this is not merely to avoid saying "Goodbye".

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS LOWNDES,
1 Colville Court,
Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire.
November 29.

A meal in itself

From Mr J. R. Blatherwick

Sir, My writing desk is a smallish, cluttered one — how clever of you to know this! When I have my evening meal on it whilst reading *The Times*, the adverts provide ample space on every page to rest my dinner plate. The articles are meaty enough to see me through my meal and finish it just before the correspondence page which has no adverts on it.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY R. BLATHERWICK,
96 Farnage Lane,
Enfield,
Middlesex.
November 29.

Present indicative

From Mr Bryan Magee

Sir, A few years ago I gave an old friend of mine a Christmas present that he regarded as so thoughtlessly inappropriate that he gave it to me back, beautifully rewrapped, but without remark, the following Christmas.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN MAGEE,
Brooks's,
St James's Street, SW1.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 6: The Queen held an investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning...

SCIENCE REPORT

Making horse sense of a pedigree

Computer analysis of fossil horses has shown that traditional theories of evolution may be flawed. A rapid burst of evolution 18 million years ago produced more than a dozen different species of horses...

OBITUARIES

ALUN OLDFIELD-DAVIES

Rebuilding the post-war BBC in Wales



Mr Alun Oldfield-Davies, CBE, who died on December 6, was the BBC's Controller in Wales from 1945 until 1967...

Today's royal engagements

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will open the extension of the Jubilee Walkway between Blackfriars Bridge and Westminster Bridge at 2.00.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.M. Tribe and Miss E.R. McMeeking will be married between 11.00 and 12.00 on December 10...

Birthdays today

Professor T. Anderson, former professor of Public Health, 84; Sir Fred Atkinson, civil servant, 69; Mr Donald Chilton-Miller, former headmaster, 104...

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Giam Bernini, sculptor, Naples, 1988; Will Cather, ocellist, Winchester, Virginia, 1873; Stuart Davis, painter, Philadelphia, 1894...

EINAR FORSETH

Swedish mosaic for Coventry Cathedral

Einar Forseth, the Swedish painter and artist in mosaic and stained glass, died on December 4 at the age of 96...

SIR WALTER PRETYMAN

A sweetener for cars in Brazil

Sir Walter Frederick Pretzman, KBE, a leading sugar farmer and industrialist in Brazil, died in Rio de Janeiro on December 4, at the age of 87...

Memorial services

Brigadier Ered Cardiff The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Colonel James Malcolm at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Brigadier Ered Cardiff...

Diners

Farmers' Club The Duke of Edinburgh, Chairman of the Council of "A Celebration of British Food and Drink 1989", a guest speaker at the annual dinner of the Farmers' Club...

Luncheon

HM Government Sir Geoffrey Howe, Qc, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs...

Gray's Inn

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir John Ramsay Willis will be held in Gray's Inn Chapel on Wednesday, December 21, 1988 at 5pm.

Service dinners

The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Lieutenant-General Sir Norman Arthur, Colonel of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards...

Royal Smithfield Show

Plumb attacks compulsory cuts

Compulsory measures to restrict food production were neither practicable nor desirable, Lord Plumb, President of the European Parliament...



Lost Touch?

Do you long to know what happened to an old school friend? Have you lost touch with a member of your family? As Christmas approaches do you want to be reunited with someone who means a lot to you...



HER OWNER WAS AN ANIMAL.

Bess had been thrown down a rubbish chute and left to die before she was discovered and brought to The Blue Cross. After two months of loving care she is well on the road to recovery. Every day, The Blue Cross sees similar evidence of man's inhumanity to animals...

Compulsory measures to restrict food production were neither practicable nor desirable, Lord Plumb, President of the European Parliament and former President of the National Farmers' Union, said yesterday...

Brigadier Ered Cardiff The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Colonel James Malcolm at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Brigadier Ered Cardiff...

Professor Ernest Catchain A memorial service for Professor Ernest Catchain was held yesterday at St Pancras Old Church. The Rev Philip Dyson officiated. Dr A.O. Betts, Principal of the Royal Veterinary College, and Professor J.E.T. Jones, Head of the Department of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Husbandry, read the lessons. Sir David Innes Williams, Chairman of the Council of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, and Professor Clifford Formston gave addresses.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

The London escape speeds up

More and more employers are expected to leave the capital. Christopher Warman looks at the reasons

The number of jobs relocated outside central London is likely to increase sharply in the next few years, the commercial property consultants Jones Lang Wootton forecast in their *Decentralisation Report 1988*.

Companies at present in the City and West End of London are committed to moving 16,000 jobs out to the provinces and suburban London during the next four years, and 24 more companies are seriously considering moving an additional 20,000 jobs to other parts of the country.

Although the number of employers moving out has remained fairly steady in recent years, the number of staff involved in every move is increasing. The figure for this year is 265 jobs, but next year it will be 443, the highest level since the mid-1970s.

Within central London the City continues to be the most important source of decentralization, accounting for nearly half of the moves since 1982.

However, the impact of decentralization in terms of total stock has been greater in the mid-town office market, where 7 per cent of stock has been vacated since 1983. Suburban London remains the most important destination for relocation, having been the target of 49 per cent of moves since 1983, and within this area the Docklands continues to attract an increasing number.

Docklands has more than 20 million sq ft of space scheduled to become available by the turn of the century and Jones Lang Wootton believes the area therefore has considerable potential to take an increasing proportion of the companies decentralizing from London.

But the survey also identifies a ripple effect in decentralization. Many of the factors causing businesses to relocate from central London, such as escalating rents and labour shortages, are showing themselves within suburban areas of the capital.

The result is that in turn businesses in suburban London will increasingly want to decentralize.

Of the moves planned, a third will be to destinations outside the South-East, and of that number three-quarters will be to the Midlands and North.

The service sector has accounted for 44 per cent of decentralizations since 1983 and will, it is predicted, be the main proportion of businesses moving. Within this sector banks and financial

organizations have been in the lead, followed by insurance companies.

Now that the Government is aiming to disperse key departments to the provinces, there is also considerable potential for public sector relocation involving thousands of Civil Service jobs. The survey has identified three government departments planning to move in the near future.

A changing pattern is that the number of organizations undertaking complete headquarters relocations has fallen during the past decade, with partial moves, usually involving the relocation of "back office" operations, amounting to more than half and expected to account for three-quarters of moves in the future.

Companies give financial reasons most frequently for their decision to move. Despite London weighting and rising salaries, property costs remain the prime financial concern, and this is likely to be fuelled in the next few years by the impact of the 1990 rates revaluation.

Growing concern over the shortage of skilled labour within the central London economy is another reason.

Organizations intending to relocate claim that problems in recruiting staff have influenced their decision to decentralize, and are becoming increasingly important in their choice of destination.

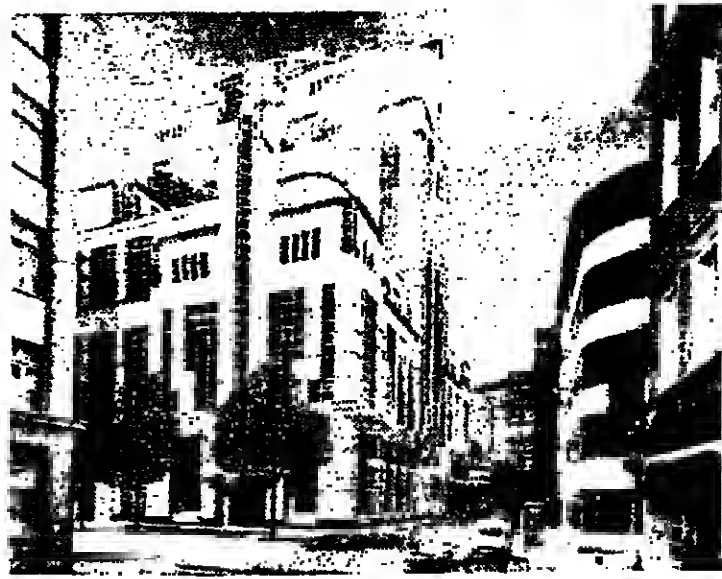
Japan link for offices at the station

Running against the London exodus, Central and City has entered into a joint venture partnership with SC Properties (UK) Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Shimizu Corporation, Japan's leading construction company, in a £130 million development of 308,000 sq ft of offices, envisaged right, now under construction at One America Square by Fenchurch Street station.

The two companies will have an equal interest in the scheme, although Central and City will manage its project design and development. SC Properties will be the first of the large Japanese contractors to open an office in this country. The project is the company's biggest in the UK and its first in the City of London.

The site of 1.1 acres is bounded by Crosswall to the north and America Square to the east, and the block is being built partly over the station and the adjoining railway viaduct.

It will incorporate improvements to the station, including a new entrance and the conversion of the existing railway arches into a concourse and ticket office. The railway arches on the south side of America Square will be converted



into a themed restaurant centre.

It took Central and City four years to assemble the site, and involved the buying-in of nine freeholds and 15 leasehold interests. These have been surrendered to British Rail, which, in return, has granted the developers a 250-year lease on the entire site.

The offices, designed by the architects Renton Howard Wood Levin, will be contained in a 15-storey tower, and will take their place in an area being steadily revitalized as it becomes established as an office location.

The scheme has been welcomed by Michael Cassidy, chairman of the Corporation of London's plan-

ning and communications committee, who described it as one of the most ingenious schemes ever produced, making full use of the awkward site.

"There is a need to provide modern accommodation in the City, and this imaginative scheme over railway tracks caters to that demand in an admirable and visually exciting manner," said Mr Cassidy.

A Roman boundary wall was uncovered during an archaeological dig carried out by the Museum of London and sponsored by Central and City at a cost of £420,000. Part of it will be preserved and visible within the building.

BRIEFING

A £67 million plan to redevelop Lister's Manningham Mills in Bradford, West Yorkshire, one of the city's most striking landmarks, has been unveiled after a feasibility study funded by List and Co, Bradford Council and the Department of the Environment.

It is estimated that the scheme, called Lister City, could create at least 3,000 jobs. A report by the architects Shephard, Epstein and Hunter says the building, with its 250ft chimney, which has dominated the city's skyline since 1873, could be converted into offices, retail outlets and studios.

The site, which covers 14 acres, could also include a hotel, an art gallery, several restaurants, winter gardens and study centres.

The architect firm, Seifert, has won a competition to build the four million sq ft Sandwell shopping centre in the West Midlands for its developer clients, Speybank Land and Estates and the Alton Group.

This important urban regeneration project will provide shopping and leisure facilities on a 120-acre site, and it already has outline planning permission.

The scheme provides for 250 shopping units in themed malls, with restaurants, a hotel and more than 20 leisure activities.

Telford Development Corporation has instructed Bernard Thorpe to sell its freehold interest in the 750,000 sq ft Telford shopping centre, which includes most of the central area of the town.

The disposal involves a site of about 45 acres and is expected to raise more than £60 million.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY Continued on page 35

HARINGEY COUNCIL



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THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Deadly legacy

I do not know how many executives of asbestos companies have contracted Mesothelioma, the incurable cancer caused by some asbestos. No doubt, when popping their noses into their factories some of them breathed rather less easily, not to say less frequently, after reading the scientific reports commissioned by their companies in the 1930s and '40s, which proved the deadly effects of some of their products.

Their workmen and people living near their factories were less inclined to hold their breath, for the findings were cynically suppressed by the companies. The scientists could not publish without their permission.

In some ways the most chilling shot in *Too Close to Home* (ITV, First Tuesday) controlled, if deeply disturbing, documentary on asbestos cancer, was not one of a victim in suffocating agony but a simple close-up of a scientific report, with the word "cut" penned by an anonymous executive hand across the cancer-link section.

This was so vulgar an act of terrorism which demanded an instant bloody return on its labour. The innocent victims of this type of time-bomb are not hit until decades later — by which time its makers are probably dead. Most of the victims seen in the film were being killed by a factory in Leeds where they never worked and which has been closed for 30 years.

The hand, however, did seem to have been obscenely steady as it stroked away a little dangerous knowledge which might have killed the fun of kids playing in the street with all that white dust. One dying man remembered it as a bit like snow. You could not but help wondering what hands are now writing "cut" on inconvenient scientific reports.

Andrew Hislop

The indomitable showman

Heather Neill interviews theatre director Sir Peter Hall on the eve of his debut as an independent in the West End

Sir Peter Hall is not an easy man to ignore. Scourge of the Arts Council for its parsimony in fixing the National Theatre's subsidy, he is the bitter enemy of *The Sunday Times* after its suggestion that NT commercial transfers were making him a personal fortune. Outspoken critic of the Government and subject of prurient gossip about his private life (his third marriage, to opera singer Maria Ewing, was publicly declared to be over in the summer), he is a headline writer's dream.

Combative, forceful, articulate, he seems to relish drawing fire. But, in the context of British theatre history, none of this matters very much. What does matter is that for a quarter of a century (10 years with the Royal Shakespeare Company and 15 at the National) he presided over first one, then the other, of the two major theatre companies in this country, imprinting each of them with his style.

From an early age he took risks in directing new work. Hall's were the first British productions of *Waiting for Godot*, of many of Pinter's plays and, in 1957 and 1958 respectively, of Tennessee Williams's *Camino Real* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. And it is with a play by Williams that Hall is inaugurating a new era in his professional life.

Orpheus Descending is the first production by the Peter Hall Company, a commercial enterprise under the protective wing of Triumph Theatre Productions, which is owned by an English producer (Duncan C. Weldon) and an American (Jerome Mincoff). The new company will have a three-year tenancy of the Haymarket Theatre in London and will also mount productions in the United States.

Over a drink near a Chelsea church hall where the company had been rehearsing just before their first week's booking, in Bath, Hall was predictably enthusiastic about *Orpheus Descending*. "It is a terribly under-valued play, with

passions and sufferings on a Greek level. It is not a naturalistic piece — played naturalistically it is embarrassing."

Failure to understand this on the part of previous directors may account for the play's lack of success in Boston and London in the Fifties. It has, however, the qualities Hall most admires in any work he presents: "highly wrought language, highly formed writing".

Williams described the play, which he shaped and reshaped over 17 years, as "the story of a wild-spirited boy who wanders into a conventional community of the South and creates the commotion of a fox in a chicken coop". Jean Marc Barr plays the boy, Val, and Vanessa Redgrave Lady Torrance, the woman most affected by his intervention.

A stickler for casting exactly the right actors in any play, Hall believes he has found the right pair here. Barr, 28, half-French, half-American, has "the right style, accent, rhythm" for Val, the wild outsider who bears more than a passing resemblance to Williams; while "Lady is a God-given part for Vanessa. She has something of a Madonna about her, but she is a frustrated Italian too, with spirit."

For "sheer dangerous creativity" he thinks Redgrave unequalled. He admires her unexpectedness, her combination (shared with Edith Evans and Ralph Richardson) of a kind of

recklessness and "amazing truth". It is a pleasure in the rehearsal process which motivates Hall; not, he said sternly, money, success or fame ("What is there to enjoy about it?"). "There is sometimes a point, just two or three days, when you are all actors and director, better than you thought you were." The hope of achieving that moment keeps him going.

"It's a journey to find the way to a play with the actors collaborating. You have to be open, to say 'I don't know', and unless you have an obsession to do it, you won't endure the difficulties and fatigues of the journey." The most dreadful day for a director is not, he says, the first night, but the first day of rehearsals when "you have a gut instinct as to whether you've got it right."

An acknowledgement that he had not, during rehearsals of *Cymbeline* at the National, led to his parting of the ways, amid much publicity, with Sarah Miles. "But I've only fired three people in 33 years."

There are five Americans in the cast of *Orpheus Descending* and, if all goes to plan, Dustin Hoffman will play Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice* in May. There will be productions in New York too, including a musical version of Innesco's *Rhinoceros*, set in a California shopping mall. "It's a timely play: there are a lot of rhinos about."

He thought it would do, both cultures "a great deal of good" to capitalize on their shared language and institute regular theatrical exchanges. He would particularly like to produce Shakespeare in the US in well-spoken American which is, he pointed out, closer than modern British English to Elizabethan speech.

There are plans for working again with masks, in the manner of *The Orestia* and *Animal Farm* at the National. "Masks are, like ballet, Shakespeare's black vest, the music of opera — or the heightened language of *Orpheus Descending* — a means of enabling the expression of emotion by con-



Headline writer's dream: Sir Peter Hall is relishing the challenge of life outside the subsidized theatre

taining and forming it... All very arty stuff," he added deprecatingly.

The conversation ranged widely. There was bitter criticism of Government policy. "In 10 years we'll wake up and wonder how we lost our education and health services, our theatre and broadcasting system... Their behaviour over sponsorship has been wicked: they said private money

wouldn't jeopardize subsidy and it has." Of Broadway theatre he said: "plastic musicals for tourists"; of English culture "philistine"; and of American television: "62 unwatchable channels".

He spoke of his plans for directing opera all over the world and making an original film for the BBC next year, and of avoiding the tabloid press by dodging behind bushes with Alan Ayck-

ourn. And throughout he maintained a genial air. Clearly he relishes the challenge of his new life, even if he finds himself "in an extremely turbulent and noisy marketplace, where you have to shout about what you are doing, or no one will notice you're there."

Orpheus Descending begins previews at the Theatre Royal Haymarket tomorrow and opens next Tuesday.

Winning studies

CONCERT

Catalogue d'oiseaux Queen Elizabeth Hall

The choice on Sunday at the South Bank was between symphonic Beethoven and ornithological Messiaen, with the latter being perhaps the more humane marabout: the 13 pieces of the *Catalogue d'oiseaux* seemed positively modest in requiring only three hours and the efforts of five pianists, all of whom were ex-pupils of Yvonne Loriod.

Hwei-Chen Liu, the most like her teacher, closed the evening clangorously and generously in the three pieces of the seventh book. However, there was some lack of care in her playing; magniloquence turned sometimes into splashiness, and repetitions were dangerously automatic. The pianist who stayed most

closely and intensely in command was Roger Muraro, who had charge of the big centrepiece, *La Rousserolle effarattée*. This was again powerful playing, but achieved with pungency and bite: the chains of colour-harmonies depicting the water-lilies, irises and reflected skies were fresh and clean.

It was good to have a contrast between these two weighty pianists in the gentle Frédéric Lagarde, whose playing had a welcome suppleness and elegance while coding nothing in luminous colour, especially the kingfisher blues and greens of *La Bouscarle*.

Both the other pianists also had good points to make: Véronique Peissier in her cooing of phrases into roundness in the first book, and Suzanne Cleetham in her looser, lithic approach, going against the other's tendency to look in Messiaen's piano writing for bells, gongs and xylophones.

Paul Griffiths



Making history: Niall Toibin (left) the Archbishop and Stephen Rea

Truth and myth

THEATRE

Making History Cottesloe

Eight years ago, in *Translations*, Brian Friel achieved the greatest landmark since O'Casey in Irish political theatre by looking at the colonial past from the perspective of language. In this sequel (another Field Day production), Friel again illuminates the most urgent national issues by means of another academic discipline.

In this case, he raises one of his country's unspoken ghosts, so as to ask whether history is made by men of action or by historians. His hero is Hugh O'Neill, leader of the Gaelic uprising that was smashed at the battle of Kinsale. Seamus Heaney gave English readers a much-needed introduction to this Irish chieftain and Elizabethan courtier in *The Times* on Monday. Irish readers need no newspapers to tell them about the Flight of the Earls.

What is equally useful to both is Friel's revision of the myth: as where he undercuts the heroic image of the Flight with the sight of the defeated O'Neill hiding out in the Sperrin mountains before shrivelling into emphysema, drunken exile in Rome.

Making History is emphatically not a debunking exercise; rather, it embodies Friel's point that the life of a national hero can be told in many different ways determined

by the expectations of subsequent eras.

The central device of the play is to show O'Neill conducting an elaborate balancing act between his tribal and continental allegiances, while his first biographer, Archbishop Lombard, is piously at work simplifying him into an uncomplicated nationalist.

The further irony is that Friel, no less than Lombard, is chiefly telling a good story. What he offers is not the "truth" about O'Neill, but a 17th-century figure who reflects our own need for Anglo-Irish understanding: a man who combined his Gaelic leadership with a New English Protestant marriage, and who managed to hold two self-cancelling loyalties until the arrival of the Spanish drove him into the tragic adventure of Kinsale.

The piece is not in the same class as *Translations*. In Stephen Curtin's production, it has not solved the problem of combining action and debate, and there are too many passages that subside into the wooden attitudes of historical drama.

Stephen Rea's O'Neill does not emerge as a charismatic leader: what he does project with great intensity is the sense of cultural schizophrenia, seen at its most agonized when in collision with Niall Toibin's smooth, ever-reassuring Archbishop, who knows that, as the writer, he is the stronger of the two: a wonderful performance.

Irving Wardle

Dreaming of Babylon Gate

In this award-winning adaptation (Edinburgh 1986) the stage is the grubby San Francisco apartment of C. Card, a dead beat private eye, and Kerry Shale, who has turned Richard Brautigan's novel into a dazzling one-man show, slouches in wearing a greasy brown suit as dead beat as the room. From painful reality Card retreats into colourful daydreams based on the serial films of his childhood; aided by a salty Ephraim beauty, who not only votes Democrat but has large breasts, he defeats Evil Doctors and all their fawning servitors.

Commissioned by a suave beauty in a chauffeur-driven limo to steal a stiff from the morgue, and successively threatened by vicious Mexicans, smiling black hoods, flashing razors and his own vengeful mother, he soon finds menace rushing towards him, arm-in-arm with farce.

Shale hops into and out of these nightmare characters with rapid changes of voice and gesture, shrewd in the selection of detail and explosively funny at times, though using skills beyond the capacity of the actual C. Card, a goof barely able to put one and one together.

Discounting this structural flaw, we have the riveting sight of a man using wisecracks to ward off existential panic while stealing himself to tell us what is inside his fridge. There are powerful horrors beneath the laughter.

Jeremy Kingston

Healing spirit

A Christmas Carol Young Vic

For some children this Christmas the name Scrooge will mean the new Bill Murray film, which puts Dickens through the mincer and serves it up as the story of a skinflint producer of American television.

Luckier will be those who are taken to David Holman's dramatization of the original, which adds just a little contemporary language but rightly sees no reason to update farthings and sovereigns.

But, more important than verbal accuracy, Holman's version is faithful to the healing spirit of the original, its message that past errors can be repaired and the good life lived again. I shall not deny I wiped away a tear.

At the rear of the open stage rises a lofty four-poster, a triple-decker affair with an eyrie reached by dizzying flights of steps. From this high point Joo Strickland's Scrooge is transported around the world by the Ghost of Christmas Present, a journey imaginatively suggested in Martin Jameson's production by the simplest technical means: a wind machine visible to the audience, a travelling beam for a lighthouse, carols in foreign languages.

A band of carollers strolls on to cover the scene-shifting, varying wassailing with a pleasant peal of handbells and a musical grand exit led by Scrooge himself on trombone.

Strickland's bony physique gives the early scenes a bleak rightness, and he has a voice that can chill an audience with sudden cries of dismay at a vision only he can see. The desolate phantoms in the street are conjured up for us by his tone of voice and stricken gaze alone.

precisely by keeping hold of the story's emotional urgency, though there is humour and jollity along the way, that the play keeps its audience enthralled.

Pinned up in the bar are letters from children who saw previews. "I have no Bad Thoughts about this play," writes a boy from Edgware. I could not have put it better myself.

Jeremy Kingston

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Harland Simon soars 182% to record £1.1m

Strong growth in all activities pushed half-time profits up 182 per cent to a record £1.134 million at Harland Simon, the electrical and computer systems designer. Sales rose 133 per cent to £14 million. Mr David Mahony, chairman, said the group achieved budgeted levels of business over the first half but the incidence of contract completions strongly favoured the second half. The group continued to pursue its policy of seeking strong organic growth with additional contributions coming from carefully selected acquisitions, he said.

The half year saw a significant development of the group with the acquisition of F&H Controls, which would make a positive but modest contribution this year. Shareholders will receive an interim dividend of 1p against 0.6p last year.

£3.3m buys for Osprey £1.5m stake for Norfolk

Osprey Communications, the advertising and marketing services group, has acquired two companies, Acute-Marketing & Communications Group and Creative Sales, for a maximum £3.3 million. There will be initial payments totalling £917,000, of which £742,000 will be financed through a share issue.

Norfolk House, the petrol station and property development company, is paying £1.5 million for a two-thirds stake in Free Room (UK), a company set up to market free hotel accommodation by way of travel incentives and sales promotions. The business made profits of £216,000 for the nine months to the end of March.

Departures hit Atkins

The early retirement of two directors has hit Atkins Brothers (Hosiery), the textiles group, which saw pre-tax profits fall from £513,000 to £390,000 in the six months to September 30. The retirement bill of £162,000 more than wiped out a small increase in operating profits from £544,000 to £573,000. The shares fell 10p to 378p. The company has expressed concern about the effect of interest rates and inflation on trading.

Turnover increased from £8.54 million to £9.25 million. Earnings per share were down from 8.76p to 6.64p. The company raised the interim dividend from 3.0p to 3.3p.

Booth profit jumps 84% TGI up 56% to £1.64m

Booth Industries, the structural steel fabricator, has reported an 84 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £242,000 in the half year to end-September, and forecast a better trading performance in the second half and opportunities from planned North Sea development. A 0.6p dividend compares with 0.375p last time.

TGI, the maker of hi-fi loudspeaker systems, reported a 56 per cent rise in profits to £1.64 million in the half year to end-September. Group sales, which include the Goodmans, Tannoy and Mordant-Short brands, climbed 27 per cent to £21 million. Shareholders will receive an interim dividend of 2p per share.

Trafalgar steams out of the doldrums with property boost

Much was expected from Trafalgar House, if only for the effects of the housing boom on a group producing 5,000 units a year. The outcome was at the top end of forecasts, with pre-tax profits up 40 per cent to £229 million on turnover just 13 per cent higher at £2.7 billion.

Last year's £300 million pseudo rights issue ensured that the gains were more modest further down the profit and loss account. But earnings per share were still up 16 per cent to 36.6p.

The 10 per cent rise in dividends to 16p per share was also understandable, given that cover had been falling in the two previous years.

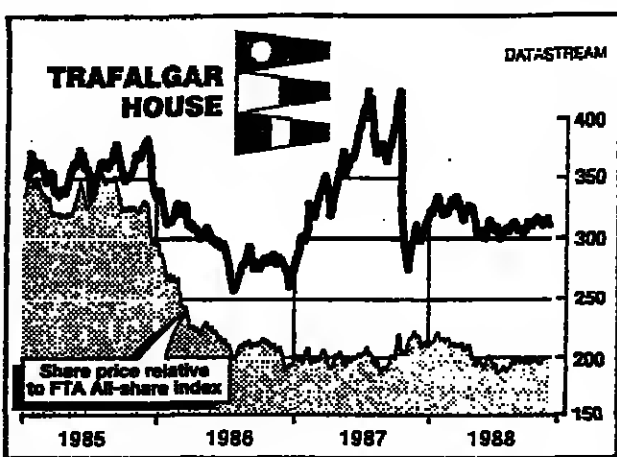
After stuttering briefly to life, however, Trafalgar shares speedily relapsed from 310p to 304p, valuing the once glamorous group at 8.3 times earnings and on a dividend yield of 7 per cent.

Trafalgar is definitely out of favour, as it has been since the oil price collapse of 1985 knocked its growth record, costing perhaps £30 million-plus a year.

One disappointment was that since the oil and gas division was put up for sale in August, no acceptable bids have been received. Trafalgar is, therefore, hanging on for the time being to a business returning £7 million profit on £28 million revenue, but which the market hoped it might sell for £120 million.

The other drawback is housing, which accounted for more than half the £149 million operating profit from property and investment - and therefore a third of group profits.

But Trafalgar is in no mood for modesty about that. Unit



sales may be down this year by up to a fifth but it reckons margins widened so much during 1987-88 that profits should stay up or even rise.

Construction should improve after a standstill £54 million profit on stagnant turnover of £1.36 billion. And there is enough confidence about hotels and shipping (where profits rose 54 per cent to £47 million on turnover up a third to £610 million) for talk of buying more hotels and an extra luxury liner.

The main emphasis, however, is on the group's record £2 billion property development programme, with more than doubled £681 million worth of developments for sale at the year-end.

This immediate earnings momentum makes the shares good value and there is still enough entrepreneurial excitement to add long-term spice.

Argyll Group

With so much misery in the market generally, and in the stores sector in particular, it is refreshing to find some good cheer at Argyll Group.

In essence, Argyll's ambition is nothing less than to move up the food chain to challenge Tesco and Sainsbury for market leadership.

Argyll's Safeway chain is already challenging Tesco on the margin front - Tesco is fractionally ahead at 4.77 per cent, compared with Safeway's 4.7 per cent. However, there is a long way to go before it approaches Sainsbury's 6.45 per cent.

Argyll's margin growth was limited to a 0.2 percentage point rise to 4.7 per cent in the first half, partly because of the accelerated pace of the conversion of the Presto chain into Safeways. Last year only seven Prestos were converted on a base of 133 Safeway stores. This year 55 are being converted on a base of 176 Safeways, a rate which puts considerable stress on the business.

The benefits are coming through in turnover growth already. Of total turnover of £1.9 billion in the first half, £1 billion came from Safeway

stores, representing a rise of 50 per cent. Of this, 3.5 per cent was due to inflation and 43 per cent was attributable to new space, leaving an underlying rate of sales growth of 3.5 per cent on a like-for-like basis, comparing favourably with the competition.

The group's ambition is to double total sales to £4 billion by 1991, 85 per cent of which will be from Safeway. It will have 6.5 million sq ft of selling space, rivaling Sainsbury in terms of size.

However, at £11 its sales per sq ft will still be significantly less than Sainsbury's £17. But Safeway will then be of a size that will allow it to spend significantly on developing the Safeway own-label brand and new product marketing, allowing it to inch up sales per sq ft.

For the full year, Argyll's profits should rise by 18 per cent to £207 million pre-tax. The prospective multiple of 10.7 is a reflection of negative sentiment on the sector, rather than Argyll's above-average prospects within it.

Northern Foods

Northern Foods' return to favour on the stock market has as much to do with the rise and rise of the Marks and Spencer television dinner as the continuing presence of Hazlewood Foods as a 3.6 per cent shareholder.

Hazlewood was warned off by Marks, Northern's biggest customer, earlier this year - some say just hours before it planned to bid - and takeover

talk is now definitely off the menu at Northern itself as it continues to shed its former stodgy image as a downmarket milkman and baker.

Pre-tax profits up 14 per cent to £39.3 million at the half-year were in line with expectations. The smartest rise, of 43 per cent, came in meats, where reorganization at Bowyers, as well as a pruning of its distribution network, started a recovery.

The switch from fully-owned to franchised milk rounds continued in the dairy group, lifting earnings by 13 per cent.

But the real expansion should come within convenience foods, in the television dinners - although this is an unfair term for the cornucopia now available, with 53 new lines sold to Marks during the half year alone.

Sales in convenience foods rose 26 per cent, with profits up by much the same despite disruption as the group put in more plant, implying no weakening of margins in exchange for volume growth.

Expansion into the Continent - where chilled, prepared meals are still a novelty - and into the US is a long-term aim. Until then, Northern has no exposure to currencies, while its low gearing protects it from rising interest rates.

Pre-tax profits of £87 million, forecast by Barclays de Zoete Wedd, for the current year, would suggest a respectable p/e multiple of exactly 10, on a price up 1p at 275p yesterday, while an 11p total dividend implies a 5.4 per cent yield.

The shares offer high-quality earnings and continuing good growth.

ITL makes cuts after £2.5m loss

A severe cost-cutting programme is under way at ITL Information Technology, involving an 8 per cent cut in staff, after the group lost £2.5 million in the half year to October 16.

The board said it was working to improve productivity and project management. In the first half of last year ITL made profits of £352,000. There is no dividend, though there may be one at the full year, says the company.

Turnover dropped 10 per cent from £14.5 million to £13 million due, says the company, to a lower opening order book and a disappointing level of orders for Momentum computer systems. The loss was primarily due to poorer computer sales and lower margins on bought-in equipment.

Crosby profit up to £1.29m

Dearer mortgages are having little impact on the profits of James Crosby group, the up-market house builder which operates mainly in the North-west. Reporting a 62 per cent increase in half-time profits to £1.294 million, Mr Michael Burgess, the chairman, said trading continued strong.

There was a 67 per cent rise in interim dividend to 1p per share.

Dividend at Reliant Motor

Shareholders in Reliant Motor group received a bullish report from Mr John Nash, the chairman, who said: "The group is now viable, has cash in the bank, and can commence a dividend policy."

Mr Nash also revealed that Reliant was negotiating an acquisition and reported profits of £172,000 for the year ended September 30 (£153,000). The dividend is 1/2p per share.

BPB Industries fined £2.1m for monopoly violations

From Michael Dynes, Brussels

The European Commission yesterday imposed a £2.1 million fine on BPB Industries Limited, and its subsidiary British Gypsum Limited, for illegal monopoly practices in Britain and Ireland in 1986 and 1987.

Following a complaint by Iberian Trading (UK) Limited, an importer of Spanish plasterboard, the Commission found evidence that BPB had been operating a system of "fidelity payments" to British builders' merchants, on condition they obtained their supplies from BPB. The Com-

mission also found evidence that, during a period of plasterboard shortage, BPB had granted companies who stocked British Gypsum plasterboard considerably more favourable delivery dates, in violation of the Community's competition policy.

BPB is the world's second largest plasterboard producer and the largest in Europe, with plants in the United Kingdom, Ireland, France, Germany and Belgium. Consolidated net turnover in 1986-87 topped £750 million.

The Commission said: "It is well established under the EEC competition rules that action by firms to a dominant market position to tie up customers is liable to amount to a violation of Article 86 of the Treaty."

It added: "BPB Industries held market shares of over 90 per cent, and was the only producer of plasterboard in Britain and Ireland.

"The exclusionary practices were liable to affect interstate trade by making it more difficult for imports from other member states to enter the market."

Anglia Secure at £7.5m

By Cliff Feltham

Anglia Secure Homes, which builds and manages retirement homes has no fears that dearer mortgages will affect its end of the housing market.

The company, which sold 600 homes for the year to September 30, is aiming for between 800 and 900 this year.

Mr Peter Edmondson, the chairman, said: "The current slowdown of the housing market has not affected our sales programme so far."

Anglia yesterday reported full-year pre-tax profits of £7.5 million, meeting the forecast made when it bought the Alfred McAlpine Retirement Homes business. Earnings per share doubled to 34.5p.

The company turned in £3.8 million in the previous year. Brokers are looking for about £12.5 million in the current year.

Shareholders collect a final dividend of 2.25p, boosting the total for the year to 4p, double the previous payout.

Shortages 'forcing up' Scottish office rents

By Our City Staff

An undersupply of office space in Glasgow and Edinburgh was forcing up rents at rates out seen outside London and central Birmingham, said Mr David Walton, the chairman of Scottish Metropolitan Property.

The board was optimistic about growth over the next years in the Scottish business community, which was generally healthy notwithstanding

the levels of borrowing and unemployment, he told the company's annual meeting.

Mr Walton said that Ben Mhor House in Epsom, Surrey, built in association with London and Northern Developments, was sold yesterday for £2.46m. All 12 office blocks at Crawley, Sussex, were now either sold or under offer, as were the seven office blocks at Southampton.

COMPANY BRIEFS

CONT. STATIONERY (Int)
Pre-tax: £0.802 (£0.2m)
EPS: 3.75p (1.87p)
Div: 0.90p (0.75p)

LEOPOLD JOSEPH (Int)
Pre-tax: n/a
EPS: n/a
Div: 3.10p (2.81p)

BOGOD-PELEPAH (Int)
Pre-tax: £98,000 (£94,000)
EPS: 0.80p (0.58p)
Div: 0.1p

Sales through the UK Frontprint outlets have been growing at annual rate of 18 per cent. Turnover £7.68 million (£3.92 million).

The cost of dividend is £162.975. The company is confident there will be a successful outcome to the current year.

Board reports that level of activity is similar to that of last year and it expects similar results. Turnover £3.05 million (£2.92 million).

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES	
Apollon Wash Prods	25
B&B (110)	110
Betchley Motor Co	190
Boston	146
British Steel P/P	61-1/2
Bucknell Aust (110p)	110
Builder Co (125p)	156+2
Calwell Inv	28
Capital Leasing	
Channel Express	79+1
Chelmer Group (82p)	100
Colson (135p)	134
Com-Tek 18 (125p)	18
Derby Group (115p)	145
Dawson Group	154
Eden	148
Edinburgh Hibernian (55p)	68
Heritage (35p)	145-3
J&S Easo	70
Kromagranic Plc	16+1/2
Nat Telecom (120p)	136
Portman Pops (180p)	183
Royal Telecom (170p)	151-1
River (110p)	119-2
SECORP	177+1/2
SMAC Group (80p)	83
SPI (25p)	25
Spectacles (77p)	84-2
Swallowfield (145p)	161-2
Unit Group	147
RIGHTS ISSUES	
Amercoeur N/P	1 1/2-1/2
Britannic N/P	3-3
Elect Mech N/P	9-1
Goal Pet N/P	3 1/2-2
Michels N/P	16-1/2
Pavilion N/P	30
Quadrat N/P	6
Rappers N/P	2 1/2-2 1/2
Sales N/P	9-1/2
Woodings N/P	9-1/2

(Issue price in brackets).

Trafalgar House. This year we're in better shape than ever.

The results for the year to September 1988 represent a return to growth in earnings per share and lead to increasing confidence within the operating divisions. Turnover increased to £2,676 million in 1988 compared with £2,368 million in 1987, reflecting increased activity in Property and Shipping.

Property and Investment had an outstanding year and is well placed for further expansion. Trafalgar House Developments and Ideal Homes are firmly established as major participants in the U.K. market. Progress is being made in expanding our property activities in the U.S.A. and Europe. The temporary increase in sterling interest rates is unlikely to impact on the fundamental demand for prime commercial and residential property.

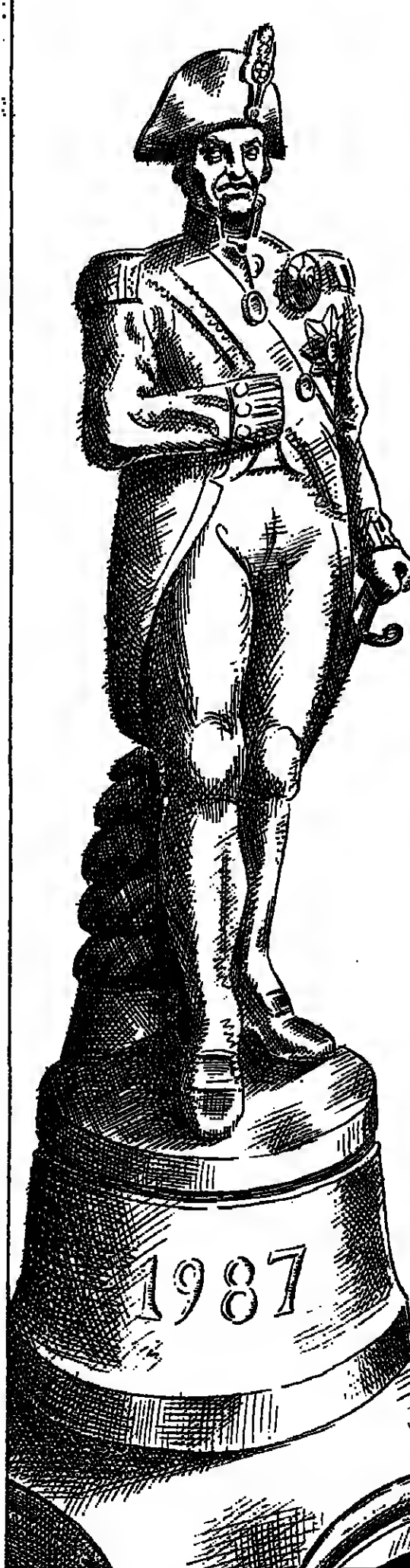
For Construction and Engineering, it was a year of consolidation. Lack of international construction orders was offset by improvement in the U.K. market and excellent results from John Brown's worldwide business.

Shipping and Hotels saw the return to a full year's operation by the QE2 and the continued expansion of our 5 star leisure activities. The first stage of the Cunard Ellerman rationalisation plan for Cargo Shipping was implemented.

Despite a difficult year, Oil and Gas marginally increased its operating profit.

1988 Results	£m	Increase
Property and Investment	149.1	41%
Construction and Engineering	53.5	1%
Shipping and Hotels	46.5	54%
Oil and Gas	6.9	23%
Operating Profit	256.0	32%
Profit before Tax	229.1	40%
Ordinary Dividend	16.0p	10%
Earnings per share	36.6p	16%

The 1988 Report and Accounts will be posted to shareholders on 15th December 1988. Copies may be obtained from the Secretary, 1 Berkeley St., London W1A 1BY.



Safeways supermarkets contribute more than half of £1.9bn turnover

Argyll soars to interim £100m

By Carol Ferguson

Argyll Group, which owns the Safeway supermarket chain, bucked the retailing trend yesterday with a 50 per cent leap in turnover and a 24 per cent rise in pre-tax profits before exceptional items at the half-year stage. The shares rose strongly on the news, closing up 5 1/2p at 166 1/2p.

Mr Alistair Grant, Argyll's chairman and chief executive, said that Safeway was growing strongly as a proportion of group sales. In the first half of this year, Safeway had sales of £1 billion, just over half the total group turnover of £1.9 billion. "The scale of the Safeway 1990s programme is immense," Mr Grant said. "From a base of 133 stores - 2 million square feet of sales area - at the time of its acquisition by Argyll in February 1987, Safeway is planned, through Presto conversions and new store openings, to triple its size by March 1991."

"It is projected that by that time Safeway will be operating some 400 stores with a total sales area in excess of 6.5 million sq ft."

He said that a better-than-expected profit improvement had been received from the conversion of Argyll's Presto



"The scale of the Safeways programme is immense": Alistair Grant, chairman of Argyll, welcomes strong first-half results

chain to Safeways, and added that turnover by converted stores had improved by 55 per cent.

Safeway opened five new stores in the first half, and a further 17 will be opened in the second half. After converting 50 Presto stores to Safeway, there will be 244 Safeway stores by March 1989.

Pre-tax profits before exceptional items relating to the accelerated conversion programme amounted to £100 million, helped by a jump in interest income from £4.3 million to £10.8 million, a result of the recent rights issue.

The exceptional charge in the half year was £5.4 million, compared with £16.8 million last year. After exceptional items, the rise in pre-tax profits was 11 per cent.

Earnings per share rose by 23 per cent before exceptional items, 11 per cent after. A 17 per cent jump in the dividend was declared, to 2.1p net.

MS leaps to interim £1.85m

MS International, the defence and mechanical engineering group, had a 42 per cent rise in pre-tax profits from £1.30 million to £1.85 million, for the six months to October 29.

The increase came despite a fall in turnover from £21.54 million to £15.65 million, after the sale of the mining equipment business to Dobson Park for £12.5 million.

Earnings per share are 4.3p (3.4p) and the interim dividend is 0.9p (0.75p).

LIG change

Mr Alan Woltz, chairman and chief executive of London International Group, has named his apparent successor, Mr Anthony Butterworth, aged 51, formerly president of Chesbrough-Poole's International, as to be managing director and chief operating officer.

Profits rise

Yellowhammer, the advertising and marketing group, made £911,000 pre-tax profits in the opening six months of the year, up from £905,000 before. Earnings per share are unchanged at 5.5p. The interim dividend is 1p (0.75p).

Front runner

Grand Metropolitan has emerged as the front runner to take over Winerwald, a West German chain of fast food restaurants.

Logitek up

Logitek, the computers' distributor, raised pre-tax profits by 41 per cent to £1.25 million in the half year to end-September. The interim dividend is 1.2p (0.9p).

French stake

Nomura International is acquiring a 10 per cent stake in Francois-Dufour Kervern, a Paris stockbroker.

Nought for their comfort

Although the details of the redundancy packages to be offered to Morgan Grenfell's departing employees have yet to be unveiled, those who joined within the past 18 months - the majority of those market-makers being asked - are, I hear, likely to receive almost nothing. If the £10 million the firm estimates the redundancies will cost were shared out evenly it would amount to £22,000 per man, but the bulk of that sum will be handed out to the longer-serving ex-Pinchin Denny staff instead. And any hopes that the latecomers will at least get their bonuses for the current year - which can amount to more than 100 per cent of salary - are also likely to be dashed. Traditionally, Morgan Grenfell declared its bonus payments in October of each year, paying them with December pay packets. But this year it altered the procedure, saying the bonuses would be declared after the December year-end and paid in March. "That's obviously why they announced the redundancies when they did, so that they don't have to pay any bonuses," concluded one wise old City hand. But the employees have, nevertheless, had the last laugh. They drowned their sorrows in champagne yesterday, happy in the knowledge that their erstwhile employer would be footing the bill. For in its haste, Morgan Grenfell had forgotten to reclaim its corporate credit cards.

Mecca beats forecast

By Cliff Feltham

Mr Michael Guthrie's Mecca team have beaten the profit forecast made during the bitter but successful takeover battle for the Pleasurama entertainments group.

For the 12 months to the end of September Mecca made profits before tax of £25.4 million, a rise of 71 per cent. That compares with a forecast of £25.2 million.

Earnings per share work out at 17.8p, an increase of 42 per cent.

The Mecca group, now in the throes of being integrated with Pleasurama, saw all divisions performing strongly.

The British holiday camps, which include the holiday centres bought from Ladbroke, boosted trading profits from £2.6 million to just over £11 million.

Social clubs benefited from increased admissions and raised profits by 13 per cent to

£9.7 million, while the entertainments and catering side pushed up earnings to £4.9 million from £4.2 million. Property disposals threw up a profit of £2.9 million (£859,000).

Shareholders will receive a final dividend of 2.75p, making a total for the year of 4.5p, an increase of 23 per cent.

The next accounts will be for the 15 month period to the end of December.

Coalite advances to £19.3m

By Our City Staff

Coalite, the Falkland Islands farming to smokeless fuel group chaired by Mr Eric Varley, the former Labour Energy Secretary, earned pre-tax profits of £19.3 million in the first six months of this year. This compares with £17.5 million last year.

Earnings per share rose from 11.45p to 13.05p and the interim dividend goes up from 2.5p to 2.75p.

Sales of Coalite, the solid smokeless fuel, were slightly down at the half-way stage because merchants were still sitting on unsold stocks left



Eric Varley: a better balance over after last winter's mild weather. Mr Varley said that the

group had now integrated the fuel oil distribution operations of Charringtons and Hargreaves, the Yorkshire group acquired at the end of 1986 for £99 million.

Coalite suffered only a marginal impact on its profits from the Piper Alpha disaster which caused the Claymore field, in which it has a small stake, to cease production for a time.

The outcome for the full year will depend on the severity of the winter, but Mr Varley says the group now has a better balance between its energy and non-energy activities. The shares slipped 2p to 326p.

Subroto urges support on oil curbs

By Colin Narborough

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries yesterday called for support from non-Opec oil producers to ensure that last week's Opec accord on lower output succeeds in ending the present world glut.

Though the call from Opec's secretary-general, Dr Subroto of Indonesia, is certain to fall on deaf ears in Britain, government sources in Oslo said Norway, Western Europe's

second biggest producer after Britain, was likely to back Opec next year.

Dr Subroto, speaking at the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London, said Opec was confident of achieving its \$18-a-barrel target price.

But that objective would not be achieved overnight, he said.

Brent crude was yesterday trading at about \$14 a barrel.

"We are under no illusion that Opec can effectively cope with the current situation without the full support of the major producers and consumers," Dr Subroto said.

The Opec secretary-general argued that non-Opec producers were also to blame for the present surplus of oil on the market and the low price level, adding that non-Opec producers had been pumping oil as much as they could.

US deal lifts VPI to £14m

By Martin Waller

A full year's contribution from the Carter Organization in the US boosted pre-tax profits at VPI Group, the advertising consultancy better known by its former name of Valin Pollen, from £4.14 million to £14.09 million in the year to end-September.

Operating income bounded by 112 per cent to £33.02 million. The sharper pre-tax growth represented higher margins at Carter - more than double the 25 per cent targeted for the original British businesses, said Mr Reg Valin, the chairman.

Carter's exact contribution was impossible to split out, but it had met the \$19 million (£10.1 million) profit target set when the company was bought last year. The US oow probably accounted for about 75 per cent of the group's earnings.

A final dividend of 2.5p raises the total to 3.5p, up from a restated 1.125p. Mr Don Carter, the former owner of the US company, has been made chairman of VPI's US holding company.

COMMENT

Sprightly GEC hits a new Plessey problem

The battle for Plessey is hotting up. First Lord Weinstock's General Electric Company produces what for GEC, with its lacklustre trading record, are glistening interim results - turnover up 15 per cent, pre-tax up 10 per cent and dividend up more than expected at a come-hither 19 per cent.

Then it transpires that Plessey's legal advisers have written to the Office of Fair Trading, launching what seems to be a well-timed torpedo towards the Anglo-German task force of GEC-Siemens. In essence, Plessey is saying that GEC, by bidding, is damaging Plessey's competitiveness, to the advantage of GEC. This is because a whole array of efforts by Plessey, including a number of acquisitions and cross-holding deals, have had to go on the back burner, two-thirds of them to the direct advantage of GEC as a competitor to Plessey and the rest indirectly advantageous to GEC because of the weakening effect on Plessey.

Plessey must certainly be finding it difficult to recruit a new finance director as successor to Stephen Walls, now managing director and in charge of the Plessey "defence committee".

Plessey is saying to the OFT that the anti-competitive effects of the bid were clearly foreseeable, and should be looked at in the light of undertakings given by GEC to the Government at the time of the 1986 investigation by the Monopolies Commission which sank

GEC's previous attempted takeover of Plessey. GEC undertook not to take more than a 15 per cent stake in Plessey.

So this could be the first test of the GEC-Siemens bid, with an offer document due to come out by December 13 at the latest. Unless GEC can persuade Sir Gordon Borrie, the director general of Fair Trading, and Lord Young of Giffham, the Trade and Industry Secretary, that the undertakings should be lifted, the bid will be stillborn.

Clearly GEC will argue that the new bid is not just a repeat of the last, because it is a joint one with Siemens. Plessey is predictably scornful of that, talking of parrot cries of 1992. But the prospect of the single market has brought altered perceptions of steps needed to sharpen industry's competitive edge. Even so, what GEC and Siemens must do is to spell out much more clearly what can be expected of this Anglo-German relationship.

Meanwhile, GEC is proving how a takeover bid can not only enliven the attacked but also the attacker. GEC's long record as an under-performer against the market has been showing signs of change, but the interims are still decidedly better than expected. They should confirm City expectations that the full year at GEC should bring about £755 million pre-tax as GEC steadily accelerates to outperform the market on earnings per share.

Something of a pickle

Quite how the stand-off between Lonrho's Tiny Rowland and Australian corporate beachball Alan Bond originally arose is likely to remain a mystery. Whatever mutual misunderstanding did set Mr Bond off on his uphill trail to stalk the international trading group, it threatens to put both sides in something of a pickle.

Lonrho has concentrated on highlighting the all-too-evident holes in the Bond group finances. The strategy is simple enough. To mount a bid, Mr Bond would need to raise the considerable wind from banks, since anything but cash would be laughed at. Even his existing 21 per cent is mostly in hock. If Lonrho can raise questions among the banks faster than Mr Bond can answer them, the dreaded Bond bid will never materialize. According to Lonrho, its unflattering study of the Bond group has been in much demand from banks, who have accounted for most of the thousand or more copies distributed.

At the same time, Mr Rowland, perhaps coincidentally, has given some credibility to the fancy prices he put on the break-up value of Lonrho through his timely sale of his whisky and French wine businesses to Brent Walker. If Mr Bond somehow still managed to raise finance for a bid, it would surely be on

terms that required him to carve up Lonrho's assets extremely rapidly.

In that case, they might not fetch the prices that Mr Rowland and his team could negotiate for selected assets at their leisure. So the bid might not look that attractive to loyal shareholders.

Lonrho's awkward questions will surely be tricky for Mr Bond either way. If he has to sink away, however, Lonrho will face new problems. At 371p, its shares are standing at about 16 times historic earnings - way above the low rating they have endured through the years of periodic controversy and out of line with other leading conglomerates or overseas traders. They are valued as much on assets (effectively break-up value) as on near-term profit potential.

The team now preparing to present Lonrho in a new light to institutions will not have an easy job. If Mr Bond's stake were not merely to pass to a more credible bidder, Lonrho and its new advisers will have to offer an attractive package of earnings growth and asset sales to create alternative value. The institutions will not be convinced unless they believe that management, including the still-redoubtable Mr Rowland, is fully committed to the job, not devoting energy to its feud with the Fayedts.

Paterson Zochonis 1988

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Year ended 31st May	1988	1987
Turnover	£190.3m	£207.9m
Profit before tax	£24.2m	£33.3m
Profit after tax	£14.9m	£21.1m
Earnings per share	29.39p	42.74p
Total dividends per share	7.80p	7.10p

Pre-tax profits were broadly in line with expectations previously indicated. The group's financial investments came through last year's stockmarket crash relatively well and the balance sheet has further strengthened. Total dividends were increased by approximately 10%.

West Africa
Depressed trading and economic conditions throughout West Africa were the major influence on both turnover and profits. Nevertheless, in Nigeria, the group maintained its share of the total market. In the French speaking countries trading conditions were extremely depressed and losses were incurred. Activities have been rationalised and a material improvement is anticipated for the current year.

Cussons
The Cussons group continued to make satisfactory progress in the United Kingdom and Australia, where a new detergent factory was brought into operation towards the end of the year. Far East operations are being expanded and now include Indonesia as well as Singapore, Thailand and Hong Kong.

Current Year
Cussons continues to make progress in all its principal operations but a recent fall of 14 per cent in the value of the Nigerian currency will be taken into account in the half year results to 30th November 1988. These are likely to be somewhat lower than those of the previous half-year.

PZ PATERSON ZOCHONIS PLC, BRIDGEWATER HOUSE, 60 WHITWORTH STREET, MANCHESTER M1 6LU
Africa, United Kingdom & Europe, Australia & Far East.



THE TIMES CITY DIARY

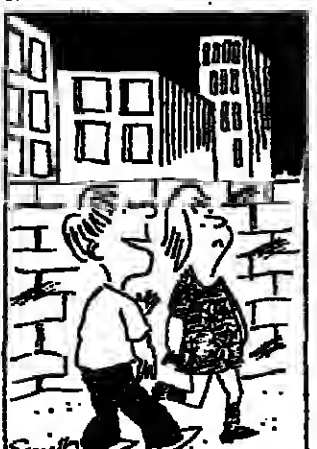
Black Bob's black mark

Even though it is nigh-impossible to be in three places at once, Sir Robert Scholey, the British Steel chairman, has not been excused a fine for non-attendance at a meeting of fellow steel-makers in Sheffield. While "Black Bob" was in the City early on Monday for the stock market debut of British Steel shares, and then

at the Savoy Hotel for lunch to be declared Businessman of the Year, he was, I am told, also due at a special meeting of the 350-year-old Cutlers Company, to install Alan Jowitz, the new Master Cutler. As one of the Company's "assistants", Scholey, aged 67, was fined 15p for failing to answer his name during two roll calls.

Till toll

Overworked City slickers, fed up with arriving home to find the cupboard bare and yet too busy to do their own grocery shopping, may find the answer to their dilemma in a new firm



"Q: What do Santa Claus and a Morgan Grenfell employee have in common?"
"A: They're both given the sack before Christmas"

Downes and out

Another of the City's old guard is quitting the Square Mile. Complaining that 80 per cent of his friends have already deserted the profession, and that the 13 screens which glare at him daily are not nearly as much fun as the old trading floor, Paul Downes, aged 49, tells me that he will be leaving BZW in March next year. His 31 years with the firm are, he says, "long enough". A partner with Wedd Durlacher since 1971 and these days a director of BZW Gilts, he plans to sell his home in Barnes, London, and move permanently to the timbered country house he bought in Wiltshire last year. "The City has changed enormously and it's no longer my scene," he says. "I was up my mind when I was on holiday in Spain with my wife six weeks ago, then I discussed it with the firm and they agreed I could go before the end of the fiscal year." He admits that he may grow bored after six months and look for something new. "But it won't be in the City." Initially he will be preoccupied with the refurbishment of his new abode. "I was attracted to the ambience of the place at once - the timbers came from an old pub," he jests.

What is the difference between a stockbroker and a fund manager? The stockbroker is more of a gentleman. He does not say "Get lost" - or more vulgar words to that effect - until the telephone receiver has been replaced.

Carol Leonard

Extra staff for inquiry into DTI and Clowes

By Sheila Gunn
Political Staff

Sir Anthony Barrowclough, QC, the Ombudsman, has taken on extra staff to speed up his investigations into the Department of Trade and Industry's role in the Barlow Clowes affair.

They will help the special unit set up to discover whether the DTI was guilty of maladministration in its dealings with the investment firm which collapsed owing £190 million. The Ombudsman has already warned MPs that it will take months before he can conclude whether the 18,000 investors should be compensated by the Government.

Mr Alf Morris, Labour MP for Manchester Wythenshawe, has said he is worried that Ministers are still refusing to promise to honour the recommendations of the Ombudsman if they are found to be at fault.

The Ombudsman agreed to launch his investigation after Sir Godfrey Le Queene's inquiry into the DTI's handling of the affair.

LHW founders break links but licence still uncertain

By Colin Narborough

Full authorization may still elude LHW Futures, in spite of news that Mr John Hughes and Mr Jeremy Walsh, the youthful co-founders of the commodity and financial futures broker, have severed all links with the firm.

The Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers, the self-regulatory organization for the sector, yesterday declined to comment on the case, but it is understood not to share LHW's view that the twin departure of the founders last month has removed the last obstacle to authorization.

Having refused authorization to 33 firms, including LHW, the AFB is determined to look beyond the question of who owns applicant firms and wishes to scrutinize closely all directors.

In spite of the radical overhaul of LHW, now under the control of Burgon Hall, and the departure of its two most prominent figures, the AFB is believed to be concerned that some executives from the old LHW remain.

Mr Hughes and Mr Walsh,



Severed connections with Burgon: Walsh (left), and Hughes both still in their 30s, resigned their directorships of LHW in 1986 after the AFB rejected the firm's application for authorization. Between them, the two men earned dividends of £19 million from LHW over a two-year period.

In spite of resigning from the board and all executive functions, they retained control of 85 per cent of LHW's previous holding company, Armstrong Capital Holdings.

Even after October's management shake-up and capital

restoring undertaken by Mr Clive Thornton, the former Abbey National managing director appointed to establish a good reputation for LHW and gain authorization, Mr Hughes and Mr Walsh were still left with about 25 per cent of Burgon Hall.

By mid-November, however, the two had been persuaded to dispose of all their shares in the company.

A company spokesman said they had "completely and finally disposed of any in-

LBMS interim profits slump

By Wolfgang Münch

Shares in Learnmonth & Burchett Management Systems, the specialist computer consultancy, training and software company, dropped 30p to 152p following the announcement of a slump in pre-tax profits from £684,000 to £375,000 for the six months to October 31.

LBMS, which is quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market and is best known for its software, used mainly by programmers and systems analysts, blamed a rise in development costs and problems with Cullinet, its main US distributor, for the setback, which had arisen despite an increase in turnover from £4.77 million to £5.49 million.

In the US, royalty payments received from Cullinet fell from £350,000 to £35,000, following a premature announcement by Cullinet of a new software product, as a result of which sales of the existing range of products slowed down considerably.

This, however, occurred long before the replacement product was introduced in October. The company claims, however, that sales of the replacement product have been satisfactory.

Development costs have risen from £550,000 to £852,000, and are likely to accelerate in the second half to an estimated £2 million. Mr Rainer Burchett, the chairman of LBMS, said the increase in development expenditure was "a positive decision", aimed at guaranteeing an early release of a new version of Automate, the company's main product.

But the company said that the return on this investment is unlikely to come through before the year end October 1990. Mr Burchett added that it was difficult at this stage to produce a year-end profit forecast.

Despite the current problems, the company claims to have a positive cash balance.

Profits before development costs and interest declined from £1.22 million to £1.19 million, and earnings per share fell from 3.7p to 2.0p. The interim dividend is 0.6p (0.5p) per share.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Series	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gold	1200	1150	1100	1050	1000	950	900	850	800	750	700	650
Oil	150	140	130	120	110	100	90	80	70	60	50	40
Wheat	100	95	90	85	80	75	70	65	60	55	50	45
... (many more series)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Share plan boosts Eldridge, Pope

By Our City Staff

Shares in Eldridge, Pope, the Dorset brewer, leaped 40p to 620p due to a share split and scrip issue plan and the revelation of an extraordinary profit of £1.26 million reflecting a £38.95 million surplus on property revaluation in the company's annual results.

Pre-tax profits, however, rose only marginally, from £3.4 million to £3.5 million in the year to end-September, on turnover up from £31.38 million to £35.22 million.

Mr Christopher Pope, chairman and chief executive, said the extraordinary credit was accounted for below the line because of its unpredictable nature and the distorting effect it would have if stated above the line as part of pre-tax profits.

Most of the increase in pre-tax profits was due to a strongly improved performance in the 105 public houses, which saw operating



Pope: plans please market

profit grow at about 40 per cent. However, Mr Pope warned of some earnings dilution as a result of the rising level of interest rates.

The company plans to split the £1 shares into 50p units plus a scrip issue of one 50p share for four new 50p shares. Earnings per share are 29.7p (27.0p). The final dividend is 5p a share, making 9p, up by 1.25p from last year.

NatWest in French expansion

By Richard Thomson
Banking Correspondent

National Westminster Bank has bought control of a French stockbroking firm, Sellier, as part of expansion of its European equities, investment and commercial banking operations.

The stockbroking operation will be run alongside NatWest Bank SA, the group's Paris-based bank, and will form part of NatWest Investment Bank (NWIB).

The value of the purchase was not disclosed although NatWest said that it was insignificant in terms of the group's balance sheet.

Sellier has seats on the Paris and Lyons stock exchanges and has 150 employees. Its main business is institutional broking in French equities, although it has an increasing business in fixed-income instruments and derivative financial products.

Cronite climbs 78% to £1.87m

By Our City Staff

Cronite Group, the processor of nickel alloys and steel stockholder, reports a 78 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £1.87 million for the year to September 30. Turnover more than doubled - from £17.79 million to £39.26 million - because of the escalating nickel price and a number of recent acquisitions. Fully-diluted earnings per share rose from 6.7p to 9.7p. The final dividend is 2.5p, making 3.5p - the first dividend since 1982.

The results were marginally above market expectations as the shares rose 3p to 72p on the news. However, two companies gave cause for some concern.

Dr Jim Butler, the chairman, said that Atlantic Cronite, a stockist of semi-fabricated aluminium and stainless steel products, which was acquired in February for £444,040, was "something of a

disappointment." Dr Butler took over as chairman in May following the retirement of Mr Tom Hones.

The problems at Cronite Advanced Castings (formerly Dowty Precision Castings), a designer and developer of high-integrity castings, which was acquired in July last year, were more serious. The subsidiary suffered from the loss of substantial defence contracts, which was exacerbated by problems in production and technical control. Management changes were made but the situation remains under review.

Gearing, once above 1,000 per cent, has been held below 50 per cent, although the group has expressed some concern about the current level of interest rates and exchange rates. During the year, the amount of interest payable increased from £215,000 to £503,000.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Series	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gold	1200	1150	1100	1050	1000	950	900	850	800	750	700	650
Oil	150	140	130	120	110	100	90	80	70	60	50	40
Wheat	100	95	90	85	80	75	70	65	60	55	50	45
... (many more series)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Contract catering

With an annual turnover exceeding £500m, Gardner Merchant is Europe's largest contract catering company and a world leader in its field.

Of the UK's top 100 companies, 84 are already clients of ours. And we're currently talking with a further twelve.

We employ over 34,000 staff. All people who understand the true meaning of the word 'service'.

Gardner Merchant invest more money in training, management development, information technology and other key support services than all our competitors put together.

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So take this opportunity to contact us - the professionals. We will provide you with the standard of catering excellence that has made Gardner Merchant the choice of over 4000 organisations worldwide.

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GARDNER MERCHANT, FREEPOST 100, MANCHESTER M60 9AU, or FREEPHONE 5525

A rock solid past.

Bardon Hill, Leicestershire. Home of some of the largest reserves of premium hardstone in England.

On this rock solid foundation Bardon has built its business. From the supply of aggregates for motorways, roads and runways, to building products for homes and gardens.

This week our success story continues with our half-year results to 30 September 1988:

- Profit before tax is up 146% from £3.4m to £8.4m, with a first-time contribution from our US subsidiary, Bardon Trimount.
- Recent strategic moves to refocus the Group on its core activities include the disposal of our hire interests and acquisition of a specialist stone supplier.
- We look forward to a successful year - though the final results will, as ever, be affected by winter weather, both here and in the US.

[EXTRACTED FROM STATEMENT BY PETER W.G. TOM, CHAIRMAN & CHIEF EXECUTIVE]

Interim results in brief	6 months to 30 Sept.		Year to 31 March
	1988 (£'000)	1987 (£'000)		1988 (£'000)
Turnover	87,128	43,254	85,987
Pre-tax profit	8,406	3,418	7,294
Earnings per share	6.97p	3.37p	7.08p
Dividend per share	0.82p	0.63p	2.50p

If you would like a copy of the interim report please contact Ken Cure, Company Secretary, Bardon Hill, Leicester LE6 2TL. Tel. 0530-510088.

Past performance is not necessarily an indication of future performance. The contents of this statement, for which the directors of Bardon Group PLC are solely responsible, have been approved for the purposes of Section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986 by an authorised person.

A foundation for the future.

Bardon Group PLC

NEW YORK

Dow continues to gain in strength

(Reuters) - Shares rose in moderate, early trading yesterday, adding to the gains of Monday. Traders said that profit-taking may appear at some point, although many expect some kind of year-end rally.

Mr Jim Scaturro, a trader at Donaldson Lufkin Jenrette, said that after recent gains, institutions may wait for a slight decline before investing more funds. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 6 points to 2,129.76.

Long Island Lighting led the list of active shares, falling 1/2 to 12%. On Monday, a US court ruled that the company had supplied false information in seeking rate increases.

The Dow average closed 31.48 higher at 2,123.76 on Monday.

Frankfurt - The 30-share DAX index closed at 1,287.94 - 5.71 points or 0.4 per cent up. Last-minute profit-taking whittled away some gains.

Singapore - The Straits Times industrial index rose 2.98 to close at 996.14. Prices closed higher over a broad front in moderate trading, brokers said.

WALL STREET

Table with columns for stock symbols and prices. Includes entries for AMR, AIG, Amgen, Amstar, etc.

TOKYO

Strong US gains help Nikkei to reach peak

(Reuters) - Prices ended firmer yesterday with the main index at a record close following Wall Street's overnight rise, but off their early traded peaks because of profit-taking, brokers said.

Mr Kenzo Doi, the head of investment information at Kokusai Securities, said: "The index could reach 30,000 by the end of this week, after pausing slightly along the way. We could see some profit-taking after it hits 30,000, but sentiment is bullish for December and January."

The Nikkei index rose 54.70 points, or 0.18 per cent, to a record 29,669.38 after a traded high of 29,767.63. The previous record close of 29,665.50 was set on Saturday as was the previous traded high of 29,666.47.

Prices were buoyed by strong gains on Wall Street overnight, brokers said. A trader at Yamazaki Securities said: "It is firm, steady trade. There have been no new developments regarding the emperor. The market is just sort of ignoring him and buying on the dip."

The Nikkei closed 50.82 points lower on Monday after Emperor Hirohito's condition suddenly deteriorated.

Buying was broad-based. Turnover was a modest 1.1 billion shares against 650 million.

The list of rises was headed by non-life insurance, communications, airline, precision instrument, bank, oil, electrical, credit/lease, retail, and some manufacturing issues.

Hong Kong - The Hang Seng index closed 5.38 points higher at 2,676.59 and the Hong Kong index rose 3.32 to 1,765.05. Turnover was HK\$953.99 million (£65.44 million), down from HK\$1.23 billion on Monday. Buyers battled sellers but the market stopped short of HK\$1 billion in turnover and left the stock indices little changed, brokers said.

Sydney - By the close of floor trading, the All-Ordinaries index had risen 11.2 points to 1,458.6. The All-Industrials rose 18.5 to 2,344.6, the All-Resources 5.8 to 728.9 and the gold index 18.7 to 1,514.3.

CANADIAN PRICES

Table with columns for Canadian stock symbols and prices. Includes entries for Agropur, Alcan, Alcan Alum, etc.

STOCK MARKET

Ultram rises on bid hopes

Alarm bells were ringing last night in the boardroom of Ultram, the leading British independent oil company - and perennial takeover favourite - as it emerged that Novoro Inc, Unigesco Inc and Banque Paribas, acting together, have acquired 14.8 million shares, or a 4.3 per cent stake, in the company.

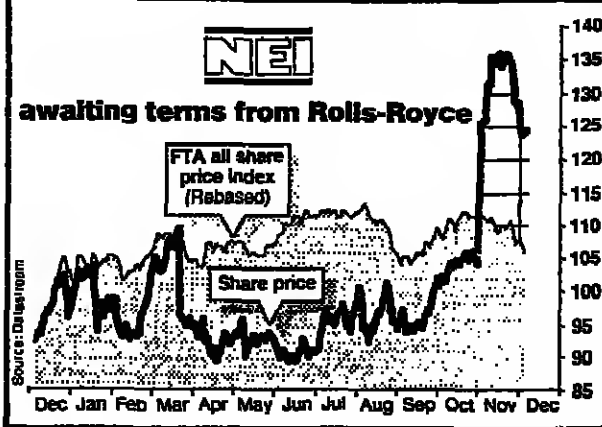
This news had speculators immediately chasing the shares higher on revived bid hopes, and by the close they stood 14p up at 258p following a turnover of almost 5 million shares.

As dealers heard that Novoro, a foreign oil trading company and Unigesco, also a foreign company which is in the food sector, were acting on behalf of Nova Alberta -

Chase Manhattan Securities, the broker, is a fan of National Telecommunications, managed at 135p. It says the company has an ambitious management team and is transacting business in an area with great potential.

NT is now well placed to grow rapidly. group which apparently could swallow Ultram with no trouble at all - they began to think that the long-awaited bid is about to materialize.

A couple of weeks ago, Ultram's shares touched 270p amid intense speculation that a near-15 per cent holding



was being accumulated and that a bid could be on the way from either Atlantic Richfield or Consolidated Gold Fields.

Further spice is always added to the Ultram situation by the fact that Sir Ron Barclay, the New Zealand entrepreneur, holds a 14.11 per cent stake in Ultram. He is believed to be a willing seller at the right price (near £3 a share), while a further 2 per cent stake is thought to be held by Premier Consolidated.

Last month, Ultram reported that third-quarter pre-tax profits had slipped to £6.3 million, compared with £9 million for the same period of 1987. In September it announced a £130 million rights issue to finance the £440 million (£236 million) acquisition of a Californian refinery.

Last night, dealers believed that the new players almost certainly signalled that Ultram's days of independence are numbered.

Elsewhere, the equity market shrugged off the news of Morgan Grenfell's withdrawal from the securities industry and the resulting 430 redundancies.

Helped by a string of favourable company trading statements and another good showing on Wall Street, share prices edged forward in thin trading. The FT-SE 100-share index closed 5.8 points up at 1,767.4, after an earlier showing of a fall of 1.9 points on the Morgan Grenfell announcement.

The narrower FT 30-share index finished 5.8 points up at 1,444.8.

Gilt, helped by overseas support, moved up a further £1/2.

After Monday's debut and the hectic trading of 261 million shares, dealings in the newly-privatized British Steel were a lot more subdued and the close was 1p easier at 61p on a turnover of 61 million shares.

Bostrom, which makes commercial seats for passenger vehicles, staged an impressive debut on the main market. Placed at 135p each by Robert Fleming, the securities house, the shares opened at 141p and improved steadily to close at 146p, a premium of 11p.

Northern Engineering Industries, the Newcastle power station equipment and general engineering company, returned to prominence with the shares jumping 6p to 129.5p.

Expect further expansion moves by Chancery after yesterday's £500,000 acquisition of Mark Kaye Financial, a loan and leasing finance group. Mr Harvey Cohen, the chairman, is believed to be ready to reveal a similar-sized deal. The shares closed 3p down at 213p.

amid speculation that Rolls-Royce has agreed on a merger which will value NEI at between 140p and 150p a share, or about £350 million.

Dealers have been expecting Rolls-Royce to bid for NEI ever since it revealed it had bought a 4.7 per cent stake in

the company at the end of October. The news then brought about a swift jump in NEI's share price to a peak of 136p, but recently the share has drifted because of the absence of any developments.

Meetings have taken place between Sir Francis Tombs, Rolls' chairman, and Mr Terry Harrison, his opposite number at NEI, during the past few weeks and it is believed a deal has now been worked out.

Analysis feel that Sir Francis is keen to create a new company, designed to win a large share of the orders expected for power station equipment after the privatization of the electricity industry. Additionally, he wants to put Rolls-Royce in a more favourable position compared with its larger US rivals in the turbine industry - General Electric and Pratt & Whitney, which are both far more diversified.

Morgan Grenfell jumped 11p to 310p following the news of the merchant bank's withdrawal from the securities industry. Dealers feel that now Morgan's market-making operation has been closed, the group is even more vulnerable to a bid.

One dealer said: "Originally a bidder for Morgan Grenfell was probably deterred by the loss-making securities division of the group."

Geoffrey Foster

British firms 'could be led astray by DTI' over 1992

The Government's 1992 publicity campaign has been criticized by a leading industrialist as a "re-run of the European Football Cup" in encouraging British companies to compete with their Community partners.

Mr Garry Hawkes, managing director of Gardner Merchant, says that British companies are in danger of being led astray by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Writing in the latest issue of First, a forum for political and industry leaders, Mr Hawkes says: "1992 should not be a commercial re-run of the

European Football Cup, with the UK engaging in an adversarial contest with the partners in the European Community.

"Instead it should be seen as a co-operative venture with the emphasis on opening up UK business to a process of cross-fertilization designed to raise standards in all areas of national life and to effect the best practices in the Community."

The danger of creating an insular "Fortress Europe" in 1992 is raised by Mr Stanislas Yassukovich, chairman of Merrill Lynch Europe and

deputy chairman of the Stock Exchange.

Mr Yassukovich, also writing in First, says the use of strict reciprocity tests to control the participation of non-European financial institutions in the new Community could create a form of trade war which would prevent a truly open financial market.

The TUC's Committee on European Strategy is planning a campaign to help unions persuade companies to establish joint bodies to prepare for European harmonization.

Court of Appeal

Photographer not guilty of contempt

Regina v Runtung. Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice McCowan and Mr Justice Slynn (Judgment December 6).

A freelance press photographer succeeded in an appeal against conviction at Southwark Crown Court (before Judge Faiba) of contempt of court arising out of his conduct in attempting to take photographs of a defendant who had left court.

Simon Runtung, of Market Place, Abridge, Essex, who had been fined £500 and ordered to pay £500 costs, was awarded his costs out of central funds for the hearing on appeal and at the crown court.

Mr Gareth Williams, QC and Mr Edward Southwell for the appellant; Mr Neil Stewart as amicus curiae.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that, for reasons which their Lordships did not know, The Sun newspaper and other newspapers were interested in taking photographs of Mr Charles Spraggell, Managing Director of Morgan & Co. Anthony Bowles, who was charged with living on immoral earnings in a trial taking some days.

On March 28 they left court and came down the steps in order to make their way home. The appellant took some photographs of Mr Bowles but Mr Spraggell put a folded

Guardian newspaper over his head and face and, with his surety as guide, made his way quickly up Morgans Lane and Tooley Street towards London Bridge station.

The appellant ran after and caught up with the two men. It was not disputed that for the next 90 seconds to two minutes he persistently tried to photograph Mr Spraggell in spite of his making it clear that he did not wish his photograph to be taken.

A solicitor's clerk joined them. The appellant dodged about, around and between the group and walked backwards holding his camera low in order to penetrate the protection of the newspaper.

The incident ended when Mr Spraggell, unable to see where he was going, bumped into some scaffolding and, possibly also, a lamp post. He then made a run for it, managing to escape from the appellant who followed for a short distance.

So far as concerned the facts, their Lordships could only say "Yes" or "No" to the success of the appeal on reading the judge's findings of fact.

The law insisted that the defendant, the witnesses and others with duties to perform in any case, civil or criminal, were entitled to go to and from the court, whether on foot or otherwise, without being molested or assaulted of threatened with violence.

The reason for that was, first, that there must be nothing to create fear in the minds of such persons so as to make them less likely to come to court to perform their functions.

The second reason was more difficult to put into words. It was that the authority and dignity of the court require that those attending it to take part in a trial should be allowed to do so without let or hindrance and without fear of molestation.

The principle derived from a judgment of Lord Justice Bowen in In re Johnson (1888) 20 QBD 63, 74.

As in all criminal cases, there were two aspects to be considered: the act, and the intent with which it was performed.

So far as the act was concerned there was a dividing line between trivial acts which no one could say were acts amounting to the necessary interference and serious acts which might amount to it. The dividing line was not easy to draw.

Had the judge found that the appellant had taken the paper away, or that he had struck the "victim" in the groin with the camera, or that he had been physically jostled, or that he had been pushed into a lamp post or scaffolding, or that he had followed day after day all the way home, then quite clearly the necessary foundation for finding

both the act and the intent were present.

But those matters, as the judge held, were not found to be proved.

What was conceded was that, given summary proceedings, they were carried out with great propriety. All necessary evidence was called, all necessary representation was present and the manner was properly argued at length.

Consequently one was left with behaviour which was offensive, rude, uncivilized and wholly reprehensible but which fell short of acts which, on an objective view, were not capable of amounting to interference sufficient to constitute the necessary acts.

Their Lordships did not, in those circumstances, have to deal with the further interesting submissions of Mr Gareth Williams so far as intent was concerned. The judge did not direct his attention to the question of intent.

Where there was conduct which did physically impede or draw the inference of intent. The appeal was to be allowed on the ground that there was insufficient by way of proof of the necessary intent in the judge's finding that the appellant had threatened that he would be followed day after day all the way home, then quite clearly the necessary foundation for finding

In re Offshore Ventilation Ltd Rhodes and Another v Allied Dunbar Pension Services Ltd and Others

Before Lord Justice O'Connor, Lord Justice Nicholls and Lord Justice Taylor (Judgment November 9)

A notice served by a superior officer of a tenant under section 6 of the Law of Distress Amendment Act 1908, requiring the undertenant to pay rent directly to the superior landlord until the mesne landlords' arrears of rent were thereby discharged, was effective notwithstanding that the mesne landlord had granted a third party a charge by way of legal mortgage over his leasehold interest or had assigned the lease to a third party.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment, allowing an appeal by Allied Dunbar Pension Services Ltd and Mr Terence Porter Sims, the trustees of the CSV Self-administered Pension Plan, from Mr Justice Harman who had ordered on June 19, 1987 (1987 1 WLR 1703) that, notwithstanding the service by the trustees of a notice under section 6 of the 1908 Act on the several underlessees of premises leased by the trustees in Offshore Ventilation Ltd, all moneys due on becoming due from the underlessees as rent under and during the continuance of the underleases fell to be paid in Mr Geoffrey William Rhodes and Mr Ian David Hinchey as the joint receivers and managers of the company, in priority to the trustees as superior landlords within the meaning of the 1908 Act.

Mr William Goodhart, QC for the trustees; Mr Christopher Pymont for the joint receivers and managers.

LORD JUSTICE NICHOLLS said that the company had granted a debenture to its bankers to secure all money from time to time owing to the debenture granted the bank a first fixed charge by way of legal mortgage of the factory premises leased to the company by the trustees (of parts of which it had granted underleases), and also a fixed charge on the company's debts and a floating charge on all the company's undertaking, property and assets not subject to a fixed charge.

The bank had subsequently appointed the joint receivers and managers under a power in the debenture, and they had ceased to pay rent to the trustees.

The trustees, knowing of the appointment of the receivers, had served the section 6 notices on the underlessees and the receivers had thereupon levied distress in respect of arrears of rent owed by the underlessees and applied to the court for directions as to whether they were entitled to retain the sums received on distress or whether the notices required them to pay them to the trustees.

The receivers contended that the notices were not effective against the bank, since the

debenture had assigned to it the right to receive rent from the underlessees, the floating charge having crystallized on the appointment of the receivers, and that assignment took priority over the statutory assignment effected by the notices by reason of the rule in Dearle v Hall ((1828) 3 Russ 1) because the trustees had had notice of the appointment of the receivers and thus of the assignment to the bank before they had issued the notices.

The receivers had submitted that since the Act made no reference to assignments of rent due from underlessees it could not have been intended to strip a legal or equitable assignee of the benefit of such an assignment without compensation even if he had given valuable consideration for it: the Act should be construed so as to avoid such an injustice and as not overriding the rights of assignees who would have priority under the rule in Dearle v Hall.

An legal mortgage of the company's leasehold interest the bank had been entitled in take possession, which because of the subsisting underleases would have taken the form of requiring the underlessees to pay their rent to the bank, and had become the reverter in expectancy on the underlessees.

The bank had not taken possession, and so the company as mortgagor had remained entitled to receive and retain the rents from the underlessees without any liability in account to the bank, either at law or in equity.

The appointment of the receivers had made no material difference since the debenture provided that they were deemed to be agents of the company, even though they had been

appointed by the bank. The receivers' entitlement to receive rents was therefore as agents for the company, even though on receipt they were obliged to deal with the money in accordance with the terms of the debenture.

Given the existence of the charge by way of legal mortgage there was no scope for the operation in relation to the same property of the fixed charge over the company's debts or of the floating charge. It was abundantly plain that the floating charge was a residual provision operating only in the absence of a fixed charge.

The bank's rights in respect of the receipt of rent from the underlessees were governed by the charge by way of legal mortgage, and those rights were not enlarged or altered by the other charges.

If the debenture were thus construed the specific or successive assignments of the same chose in action vanished. The receivers had been entitled to receive the underlessees' rent as the mortgagor company's agents until the service of the notices; there was thus no question of competing assignments of or of someone other than the company having become entitled to receive the rents. On that ground, which did not appear to have been argued before the judge, the appeal should be allowed.

There was neither surprising nor unconscionable but for the debenture section 6 would plainly have been available in the trustees as the company's failure to pay rent, and conversely if the bank had gone into possession and failed to pay rent the section would equally have been available to the trustees.

Section 6 was as much available where the defaulting tenant

was an assignee of the lease as it was where he was the original lessee. An assignee of an headlease took it subject to the possibility that if the rent due to the superior landlord were not paid the latter could garnish the rent due from underlessees, in the same way as he took subject to the possibility that in the event of default in payment of rent the superior landlord might forfeit the headlease with the consequence that any underlessees would automatically be terminated.

Likewise, a person, including a mortgagee, who took not an assignment of the headlease but a sub-term carved out of it acquired an estate which from its inception was subject in the rights conferred on superior landlords and under tenants by the 1908 Act.

If that were right and the notices would have been effective if no legal charge in favour of the bank had been created, and also if the notices would equally have been effective if the bank had gone into possession under the charge, it would be surprising to find that such notices were ineffectual if a receiver were appointed under the charge. There would be no rhyme or reason in that.

It was not appropriate or necessary to express any view on what the position would be under the 1908 Act if there were an assignment of a right to receive rent from an undertenant unaccompanied by an assignment of the reversion. That point could be decided if and when it arose.

Lord Justice Taylor and Lord Justice O'Connor agreed.

Solicitors: Drummond & Co, Epsom; Nabarro Nathanson.

Costs of injunction granted on false evidence

Bir v Sharma. Before Mr Justice Vinelott (Judgment October 6)

Where a Mareva injunction to prevent the dissipation of assets was obtained on the basis of fabricated evidence, the costs of the application for the injunction and the subsequent application for its discharge should be paid by the plaintiff forthwith on an indemnity basis even where the costs could not as yet be established whether or not the plaintiff was personally implicated in the plot to fabricate the evidence.

Mr Justice Vinelott so held in the Chancery Division on an application by Mr Om Parkash Sharma to discharge the Mareva injunction obtained by Mr Dharam Bir on May 5, 1988.

Mr Stephen Rubin for Mr Sharma; Mr Anthony Clover for Mr Bir.

MR JUSTICE VINELOTT said that Mr Bir and Mr Sharma had formerly been partners and the dispute was as to the ownership of partnership assets. It was now established that the Mareva injunction had been granted on the basis of forged evidence. A letter from a Mr Raj Kumar Sharma, the branch manager of the State Bank of India's branch at Delhi airport, that letter indicated that Mr Om Parkash Sharma, the defendant, intended to open an account with the plaintiff's funds transferred from substantial funds from England.

It transpired that the defendant had no intention of opening such an account, was not, as claimed, in India at the relevant time and that the signature on the account mandate form opening the account was a forgery.

The defendant had incurred considerable costs in going to India with his legal adviser to find out what had happened.

That was the conduct of an innocent man caught up in deception.

The plaintiff argued that Mr Raj Kumar Sharma acted without his knowledge and consent and as he was not personally implicated in the scheme to fabricate evidence he should not be ordered to pay the defendant's costs but that the question of the costs of the Mareva

injunction should be left until trial.

His Lordship held that the court was in fact misled by fabricated evidence into granting a Mareva injunction which apart from the evidence would not have been granted. The evidence was clearly fabricated in order to assist the plaintiff in obtaining an injunction to which he was not entitled.

The result was that the defendant had not only suffered the disruption to his business affairs which was the inevitable consequence of the granting of a Mareva injunction, but had been put to considerable expense in order to uncover the deception and establish the true facts.

A Mareva injunction was an exceptional remedy and if the court was misled into granting

an injunction by fabricated evidence, the party who obtained the injunction in reliance on that evidence should be held responsible for the costs and damage that ensued, even if he was able ultimately to show that he was not a party to or even aware of the deception which was practised for motives of friendship by someone who wished to help him.

Therefore the only course his Lordship could take in the circumstances was to direct that the plaintiff pay the defendant's costs of the application for the Mareva injunction, and the application to discharge it, on an indemnity basis, to be taxed and paid forthwith.

Solicitors: Kenneth Shaw & Co, Maurice Putsman & Co, Birmingham.

Applicant to answer new ground

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Gaima

Where an affidavit, sworn on behalf of the secretary of state in proceedings for judicial review of his decision to reject an application for political asylum, suggested for the first time that a further basis on which that decision was justified was held on December 6, allowing an appeal by Marion Gaima from Mr Justice Macpherson who on July 22 had dismissed her application for judicial review of that decision.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice May, Lord Justice Croom-Johnson and Lord Justice Gidwell) so held on December 6, allowing an appeal by Marion Gaima from Mr Justice Macpherson who on July 22 had dismissed her application for judicial review of that decision.

decisions by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, refusing to rescind a deportation order made against her in 1981.

LORD JUSTICE MAY said that in refugee and asylum cases the court should subject administrative decisions to rigorous examination. It was not for the court to say whether the decision maker, and the suggestion in the affidavit could not be passed over as being akin to an "obiter dictum".

The trustees, knowing of the appointment of the receivers, had served the section 6 notices on the underlessees and the receivers had thereupon levied distress in respect of arrears of rent owed by the underlessees and applied to the court for directions as to whether they were entitled to retain the sums received on distress or whether the notices required them to pay them to the trustees.

The receivers contended that the notices were not effective against the bank, since the

Failure to act promptly is fatal to judicial review application

Regina v Dairy Produce Quotas Tribunal, Ex parte Caswell

Whenever there was a failure to act promptly or within three months, as prescribed by Order 53, rule 4(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, there was "undue delay" within section 31(6) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 and relief would not be granted at the court's discretion where it would be detrimental to good administration.

Mr Justice Popplewell so held in the Queen's Bench Division on November 25 when refusing to grant the application of Albert Raymond Caswell and Eirlys Edwina Caswell to quash the decision of the Dairy Produce Quotas Tribunal for England and Wales of February 13, 1985 to reject their claim for wholesale milk quota, although granting their application for a declaration that that particular decision was unlawful.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the court, when dealing with undue delay in judicial review cases, was only concerned with the delay and whether there was any

excuse for all or part of that delay.

The court could refuse to grant the relief sought if it considered it likely to be detrimental to good administration which was a prerequisite of a refusal as the effect of the refusal not only upon the applicant but upon any other person affected by the relief sought was to be taken into account.

Each individual judge in every individual case had a discretion in undue delay cases and that discretion was not to be circumscribed, but in exercising that discretion there were several common factors as the length of delay and whether there was any

claim by Robert James Vevers for a wholesale milk quota and granting an order of mandamus requiring the tribunal to reconsider his claim.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the Rules of Agriculture which filed their affidavits out of time, the requisite 21 days, as laid down by Order 53, rule 6(4), and therefore their evidence would be excluded.

The time had now come when the Rules of Agriculture should be observed by respondents in judicial review cases.

Affidavits filed too late

Regina v Dairy Produce Quotas Tribunal, Ex parte Vevers

Strict adherence to time limits for respondents lodging affidavits in judicial review proceedings under Order 53, rule 6(4) of the Rules of the Supreme Court was necessary.

Mr Justice Popplewell so held in the Queen's Bench Division on November 25 when granting an order by consent for certiorari to quash a decision of the Dairy Produce Quotas Tribunal for England and Wales on January 28, 1985 to reject a

Main table containing unit trust information, organized into columns for various fund categories such as UK Equity, International, and Bond. Each entry includes the fund name, manager, and performance metrics.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table of unlisted securities, listing company names, share prices, and other financial details for various firms.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts, detailing the names of trusts, their managers, and their respective performance data.

THIRD MARKET

Table of third market trading, listing various financial instruments and their market activity.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table of foreign exchange rates, including Sterling Index, Sterling Spot and Forward Rates, and Other Sterling Rates.

MONEY MARKETS

Table of money market rates, covering Euro Money Deposits, Bullion, and Coins.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures, listing various futures contracts and their current prices.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices, including LONDON FOX, LONDON METAL EXCHANGE, and other commodity markets.

Vertical text on the left margin: Lord The dam our... (partially obscured)

Vertical text on the right margin: The prices in this section refer to Monday's trading

MEDIA & MARKETING

She who must be a success



The face of change: Joyce Hopkirk at the editor's desk of her magazine

When Joyce Hopkirk was invited to edit *SHE*, her image of the veteran women's magazine was of bizarre human interest stories — including the infamous article on eating placentas. "I had a vague idea that *SHE* was a features magazine with a strange sense of humour," she recalls.

In her two years as editor she has so transformed the 34-year-old monthly magazine that she was last week judged to be Women's Magazine Editor of the Year by her peers in the British Society of Magazine Editors (BSME).

At the awards ceremony, the society's chairwoman, Dee Nolan, editor of the *Sunday Express Magazine*, applauded the fact that Hopkirk has maintained *SHE*'s "quirky originality without bowing to stereotypes or mimicking other titles", adding that the editorial has become "innovative and stylish".

For Hopkirk, who, as editor of *Cosmopolitan*, won the BSME's Editor of the Year award in 1972, it was particularly satisfying "because the runners-up were *Cosmopolitan* and *Elle* and I have been associated with both of them". Since taking over *SHE*, she has increased its circulation (average age of reader

The award-winning editor of *SHE* talks to Sally Brompton

38.4) from less than 200,000 to more than 212,000.

The BSME, which has 190 members, presents five categories of awards each year. The selection is based upon nominations both by society members and non-member editors. Any publication may be nominated. The overall title of Editor of the Year is voted for by members and was this year won by Maggie Goodman of *Hello*.

At a time when women's magazines are proliferating, *SHE*'s rising circulation and acclaim within the media is a remarkable tribute to its editor and her team. With more than 200 women's magazines on the market, the competition is cut-throat. Recent invaders, many from overseas, such as *Elle*, *New Woman*, *Prima*, *Bella* and *Best*, are challenging traditional titles.

"There does seem to be a sort of unending appetite which amazes me," Hopkirk says. "I don't feel personally threatened because I think we are lucky that *SHE* is in

such a unique slot. The only way for us to survive is to be slightly different."

Hopkirk finds that she is able to relate to *SHE*'s readers. "I feel I'm talking to my sort of woman who has too much on her plate." Married for the second time, with two children aged 22 and 13, she leaves her Hertfordshire house at 7am and returns at 8pm.

She rose from cub reporter on the *Gateshead Post*, to become royal reporter on the *Daily Express*, assistant editor of the *Daily Mirror*, women's editor of *The Sunday Times* and editorial director for the launch of *Elle*. She admits that she was "rather disappointed" not to have become Fleet Street's first woman editor.

One of the first things she did when she took over *SHE* was to banish "all those black and white advertisements for pills". She then set about taking the magazine up market.

She has broken with the *SHE* tradition of using "untargeted" amateur contributions but still receives sacksful of manuscripts every week. Recent "gems" included the one from a magistrate who, stuck in a snow drift, suffering from mastitis, suckled her new-born baby on the family dog.

BYLINES

Problems writ large

The editor of *The Independent*, Andreas Whittam Smith, is faced with legal action after an article in his paper reappeared in the *Observer*. The problem began when Harrods store owners, House of Fraser Holdings, complained to the Press Council alleging that *The Independent* carried a defamatory article written by the chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Council, Lord Rees-Mogg. The piece, published early last month, referred to Tiny Rowland and the takeover of Harrods by the Al Fayed brothers. House of Fraser was prepared to let the matter rest after the paper published a letter. But the company is now threatening legal action because Whittam Smith allowed Lorho to reproduce the offending article in a series of advertisements — one of which has appeared in Lorho's own newspaper, the *Observer*. This, coupled with Whittam Smith's recent announcement that there is not going to be a *Sunday Independent*, has fuelled speculation that *The Independent* is back in discussions about buying the *Observer*.

Infelicitous

As a senior executive at *The Daily Telegraph*, so delicately put it: "The editing chemistry between Max and Felicity did not work well."

Indeed, there has been considerable friction between Max Hastings, the editor of the *Telegraph*, and Felicity Lawrence since her magazine moved from Sunday to Saturday and came under the aegis of the daily paper.

The announcement that she would cease to be editor closely followed the British Society of Magazine Editors' Awards results. These named her as editor of the year in the colour supplements section, to the astonishment of many magazine watchers who believed that the editors of *You* and *The Sunday Times* magazine were stronger contenders.

However, a solution was found with her appointment to a new post called Head of Development, Magazines, which is directly responsible to chief executive Andrew Knight. "The *Telegraph* has long been looking at the possibilities of expanding into magazines which would complement the newspapers," he said. Lawrence will continue to edit until the New Year.

Lloyd's belles

As if it had not drama enough, Lloyd's of London may become the focus of a television mini-series. Two independent approaches have so far been agreed in principle by Lloyd's, one from the BBC to be co-produced with an American company, the other from the US-based company,

Flying High. Both are now busy talking to underwriters, brokers, loss adjusters and claims investigators about the series.

Briefing . . .

A very special offer from the publisher of *House and Garden* magazine. It is offering a 25 per cent discount to regular subscribers. It will cost them 45p more to sign up for a year than if they bought each issue individually. The *Evening Standard* moves from its home in the *Daily Express* building to the revitalized Barker's building — Northcliffe House, Kensington High Street — after the last edition on Friday. It will be followed by the *Mail on Sunday*, which will move in June, and the *Daily Mail* in July. . . DC Thompson is launching a glossy magazine called *Opera Now* for opera enthusiasts in March. . . Capital Radio is joining forces with LBC to bid for an ethnic incremental contract in London. . . Rupert Murdoch is planning to launch a sixth Sky channel specializing in the arts and classical movies. . . The IBA has revealed that its issue of radio contracts has been oversubscribed. It has received 520 bids for 20 contracts being offered across the country and 200 letters of intent for a possible five in London.

Jane Slade

BBC Chairman Marmaduke Hussey received a 4.7 per cent salary increase during the year ended March 31, 1988 and not 30 per cent as reported last week.

The three US television networks have relaxed their deadly rivalry to join forces on a powerful Christmas anti-drinking and driving campaign. In both public service announcements and in specially-written episodes of their prime-time programmes, CBS, NBC and ABC are all focusing on the "designated driver" — the person who remains sober to safely drive his or her drinking companions home.

"This is the first time all three networks have agreed to sponsor simultaneous public service campaigns promoting an identical message," says Jay Winsten, director for the Centre for Health Communication at the Harvard University School of Public Health. The centre has masterminded the designated

Taking the sober view

American television unites against the drunken driver for Christmas

Winsten was helped by the television supremo Grant Tinker and the former CBS president Frank Stanton. They introduced him to almost 100 writers and producers at the large Hollywood studios and found that "the overwhelming majority responded enthusiastically". So far, 15 prime-time programmes, including the popular sitcoms *Who's the Boss* and *Mr. Belvedere*, and the cop show *Hunter*, have included dialogue, and in some cases entire plots, involving the designated driver theme. More programmes will address the issue in future.

"If it got in the way of the entertainment value, I assume they wouldn't do it," Winsten says. "But some producers have obviously found dramatic potential in the theme."

Over the holiday period, each network also plans to air its own public service spots approximately 20 times a week, mostly in prime-time. To help make the spots more effective, CBS commissioned

research from Saatchi & Saatchi. "This showed that, to appeal to young people, we should not make the designated driver an authoritative or parental figure," says Matthew Margo, CBS vice-president for programme practices, New York.

"We feel the alcohol problem is a lot broader than merely reinforcing the idea of the designated driver, but we're squarely behind that message because we feel it is achievable," Margo says. CBS also forbids the glamorization of alcohol in its programmes, and insists on showing the negative effects of over-consumption. NBC claims it has been broadcasting public service messages to that effect for a decade.

But Winsten insists that the current campaign "isn't only about alcohol use — it's about changing social norms relating to driving after drinking. Public opinion surveys show that those norms are already changing. We believe we can change them further through the mass media. By reflecting changing attitudes, television can reinforce them and add momentum to them."

The need, he insists, is great. According to statistics, 24,000 Americans die, and a further 55,000 receive serious injuries, as a result of alcohol-related traffic accidents.

Winsten is optimistic about the effects of the television campaign. Attitudes are already changing, he says. Even in recent programmes dealing with the issue of drunk driving, not all producers acted in direct response to the Harvard campaign. For example, a few weeks ago, at the beginning of the new television season, the writers of NBC's newest hit sitcom, *Roseanne*, had on their own initiative relocated the neighbourhood bar by a few miles, so the men who regularly stopped in for a drink after work could all walk home.

Sue Woodman

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The Way Ahead Trust are to buy an appeal for the Charity Centre (located in the City) and are looking for a secretary to co-ordinate the appeal. The appeal is to raise money for the Centre and will be a major project. The successful applicant will be responsible for the day to day running of the office. You will be responsible for the day to day running of the office.

Telephone: Mrs Mary Kathleen, 01-761 7623

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Perhaps you deserve better...

...Recruitment Consultants, Central and Suburban London, £11,500 - £13,000p.a. to start plus considerable bonus and profit share

Like so many bright people you often feel wasted; unstretched, stagnant, bored. Not that your present job is a bad one, it's just so often unfulfilling. Maybe 1989 will provide an opportunity for that elusive, oh-so-desirable "right one", where the pace, the need for applied imagination, "cleverness", more than a mere touch of creativity and a constant interface with real, live people can leave you sometimes breathless, often exhausted by 6pm, but practically always stimulated.

Office Angels are soon to open five new branch offices and seek its consultants, with or without recruitment experience. You could be joining what is generally acknowledged as the most successful recruitment agency team of the 1980's and helping us to remain that way during the 1990's too. Perhaps you deserve the opportunity...

Please write, with the briefest of CVs, to Laurence Rosen, Chief Executive Office Angels Limited, Wells House, 78 Wells Street, London W1P 4AX



Director's Secretary

We are the largest practice of Consulting Engineers in the UK, with offices worldwide. One of our Main Board Directors now seeks a secretary based in Central London.

Applicants should be 25+ with a good general education and a cheerful and helpful personality. Good organisational, communication and other secretarial skills (100/50 wpm) are essential. Initiative, flexibility, ability to work under pressure and a sense of humour are other attributes we are seeking. A non-smoker would be preferred.

Salary will be negotiable depending upon experience. Benefits include profit sharing, pension scheme, free life assurance, accident and permanent health insurance.

Please apply in writing, quoting Ref OAP88/7A, with a curriculum vitae to Maureen Preston, Personnel Manager

OVE ARUP PARTNERSHIP 13 Fitzroy Street, London W1P 6BG



P.A./SEC TO MANAGING DIRECTOR circa £12,500

Datech is a rapidly expanding engineering software & consultancy company based in Orpington, Kent & is a subsidiary of Skanska, one of Sweden's largest Engineering companies. The successful candidate will have a good educational background (A Level/Graduate), excellent secretarial skills, good WP experience, and would have already worked at Director level. Proven administrative & organisational skills will complement the ability to "follow through" on projects at a senior level & get the job done. Responsibilities include the upkeep of the M.D.'s appointments diary, travel arrangements and follow up on business matters. Some project work will also be involved which the P.A./Sec may undertake fully or as an executive assistant. Some personal experience would be an advantage. For full details of this exciting opportunity to work in a young, friendly, fast moving environment, please contact Suee Marrett on 0893 36231.

DESPERATELY UNDERSTAFFED? UNUSUAL TALENT GOING TO WASTE.

Highly experienced PA with above average skills, excellent appearance, maturity and an excellent personality requires a challenging position in the Central London area. Please ring us now.

London Town Recruitment Consultants

SPORTS EVENTS £11,000

Sales Promotions Director of sports sponsorship company is looking for a gregarious, self-motivated assistant. You will be a key member of his team and will attend sporting events around the country which involves occasional week-end travel. 80/60 skills. Age 21+.

JIGSAW RECRUITMENT OXFORD CIRCUS 01-631 0902

Target - 1992 circa £18,500 package

Imagine for a moment, the size of the challenge... Our client, one of the world's leading Merchant Banking groups, needs a French speaking individual for an exceptional senior role. As Secretary to their charismatic MD, your diplomacy and professionalism will be called upon at all times to liaise with major institutions and clients worldwide. Already working at senior level - ideally in a banking environment - skills of 90-55 and impeccable presentation are taken as read. Age 27-35. High fliers only please. Call 01-493 5457.

GORDON YATES

OFFICE MANAGER £14,000 - £15,000

Run the offices, deal with suppliers and handle the recruitment of support staff and personnel records for this 60 strong professional firm. You will also prepare monthly financial reports so Lotus 123 exp or similar required. Minimal typing on DW4 (50+ wpm please) Age: late 20's+. 439 7001 West End 377 8600 City

SECRETARIES PLUS The Secretaries' Consultants

PA To Creative Designer, Health, Leisure Designer, also involves household management, organising personal and social life and some PR work. Intelligent, bright and flexible person required, with the ability to work happily for a wide variety of people, flexible, able to meet and liaise with all staff. Competitive remuneration on 01 370 6701 ext 774.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AND DATA SALARY EXCELLENT! Existing and challenging role as PA to Director of International Communications Company. Varied and responsible position which will involve you in full range of secretarial and administrative duties. Excellent skills, 100/50, required, and pleasant telephone manner with the confidence to handle business and social arrangements. Please call Judith Hankin on 01-631 4013 for further information.

TO £25,000 PA/EXECUTIVE For London Office of Chairman of International Company. This exciting position, which is based in the West End, will only suit a very experienced and mature personality. Age 30+. Languages desirable and superb organisational skills are essential. Please apply in own handwriting with full C.V. to BOX H75, Ref LW.

50% ADMIN + £13,500 Director of Administration needs energetic PA with audio, charm, experience and a sense of fun. Lots and lots of liaison for someone 25-34. Heavy shorthand could be useful. Call Lee on 377 8777

DOCKLANDS DESIGN £11,500 package Based in a superb renovated Thames-side warehouse this is an excellent opportunity for a young single one seeking promotion prospects in a creative environment. Call Susan on 377 8777

Middleton Jeffers Recruitment Consultants

SENIOR SECRETARIES

A step up in your career - and an opportunity to stretch all your skills

The role of a Senior Secretary at Arthur Andersen & Co. represents a true challenge, and skills gained over the years are fully utilised.

This applies to an even greater degree for the Secretaries we are currently seeking to work for two of our Partners.

Obviously you will be expected to have achieved a high standard in audio/typing skills (60 wpm) - shorthand is required for one of the positions. However, equally important, you are likely to be in your mid-20s and above - to possess the necessary maturity essential for these opportunities. You should also have a

good education and at least five years' experience behind you. Well groomed, you will have a professional approach to your work combined with first-class administrative, organisational and technical skills.

You will be a part of one of the world's largest and fastest-growing firms of management



consultants and chartered accountants - working in a professional but friendly environment where quality is recognised and rewarded.

There will be a starting salary £13,000 p.a. (plus paid overtime), and the many benefits include Flexitime, subsidised staff restaurant, season ticket loan and free life insurance. If need be, you will have the opportunity to train/cross train in the latest Wang network technology.

Write now with your full c.v. to Jackie Gosling, Senior Recruiting Officer, Arthur Andersen & Co., 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2PS.

Maine-Tucker Recruitment Consultants

BREAK INTO ADMIN! to £13,000 + profit share + pkg

If you are looking for more responsibility: Are a good organiser: And are lively and fun enough to work with PR/Advertising people: Then this could be the chance for you! The job is about 60% admin, organising a whole 'people scheme' - lots of Client liaison and real organisation. You will be working beside a bright, highly-organised Director of a world famous PR Group - choosing future stars for the company! It's very rewarding working from beautiful SW1 offices with incredibly nice people, excellent prospects for a career with the company. If you have a little shorthand, 50 typing, need a new challenge... call us.

50 Pall Mall St James's London SW1Y 5LB Telephone: 01-925 0548

Maine-Tucker Recruitment Consultants

ASSISTANT IN ADVERTISING to £13,000

Are you really keen on being a True Personal Assistant because this absolutely charming man needs you - although you do need a bit of shorthand and accurate typing the secretarial is honestly minimal. He has the busiest diary in the West, he is a top Director for a famous Creative Company in the West End, So, if you are perhaps reading this as a bored secretary who is stuck behind a typewriter - this is a brilliant career move for you. The company's internal promotion is amazing, the people fun and colourful and the office stunning. For a job that you could not fail to enjoy look no further!

50 Pall Mall St James's London SW1Y 5LB Telephone: 01-925 0548

Maine-Tucker Recruitment Consultants

PR/MARKETING WITH A DIFFERENCE £11,000 + Perks

This is an unusual opportunity to join the small Communications Company which although in its very early stages is continuing to grow at a phenomenally successful pace - London & Tokyo. As PA to the Managing Director you will be directly involved in the wide range of Communications, Marketing and Media Advertising activities by the Director. You will be responsible for the day to day running of the company and will be working closely with the Director on all matters. This is a highly-organised and can see your initiative leading with clients, running the office and liaising with the Director and other staff. You will not only take the Company forward and upwards but also offer YOU the chance to prove yourself and do very well too. Excellent organisational and communication skills together with good typing (shorthand an asset) will start you off on an exciting new career.

50 Pall Mall St James's London SW1Y 5LB Telephone: 01-925 0548

Maine-Tucker Recruitment Consultants

TOP RECEPTIONIST? £12,000 + Very Large Bonus + Perks

An extremely prestigious but friendly Company needs a really superb, dedicated Receptionist. You will be greeting lots of eminent people, answering a Manchester switchboard (reception central) and you must be someone who is genuinely proud of her work and for whom nothing is too much trouble when looking after your Company's visitors - everyone not just clients! In return you will be working in beautiful offices, really appreciated and given the best remuneration package to London! A warm but professional person is sought, aged 25-35 with excellent presentation and good voice and Charisma!

50 Pall Mall St James's London SW1Y 5LB Telephone: 01-925 0548

Euro-Design Bi-lingual PA

Successful young design consultancy specialising in interior and graphic design seeks a highly competent PA to work alongside their two Creative Directors. Both young and charming, they travel extensively liaising with clients abroad and establishing new business. An all-encompassing role where your responsibilities will be more administrative than secretarial, with plenty of scope for a bright, experienced individual. Ability to translate and converse in French essential. Salary £12,000. Typing required. Call 01-493 0713.

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION



Of Cultured Taste... Pure Reception

Our client, a substantial and prestigious private Art Gallery, seeks a well-spoken, immaculately presented Receptionist. Based in the magnificent marbled Gallery proper, you will be advising a discerning clientele on forthcoming exhibitions; attending client parties and exhibition launches etc. A gregarious socially-confident disposition is essential. If you are well-educated and enjoy a pressurised environment, telephone 01-493 5787 for an appointment.

GORDON YATES

Recruitment Consultants

University of London ASSISTANT EXAMINATION OFFICER

Applications are invited for an Assistant Examination Officer in the Faculty of Medicine at Senate House. The successful applicant will be required to undertake a variety of duties connected with undergraduate examinations. Previous office experience, accurate typing and meticulous attention to detail are essential. A degree or equivalent qualification and experience of wordprocessing desirable. Most important are flexibility and the ability to work accurately under pressure as a member of a small busy team. Mature applicants welcome.

Salary will be determined by experience and qualifications. Benefits include 34 days holiday a year inclusive of public holidays. Season ticket loan. The office is centrally located within walking distance of Oxford Street and five underground stations. For further details please contact as soon as possible the Personnel Office, University of London, Senate House, Great Street, LONDON WC1E 7HU or telephone 01-275 3888 Ext 3247 or 3275 (telex) quoting reference AH74

THE RT. HON. DR. DAVID OWEN MP requires

A FIRST CLASS ASSISTANT with good shorthand and word processing skills to join small but friendly team to handle constituency and policy work. Letter writing experience and/or knowledge of House of Commons/Whitehall helpful.

Please send c.v. to Phoebe Roome, Norman Shaw North Building, Victoria Embankment, London SW1 or telephone 01-219 5117.

ADMINISTRATOR for Barristers Chambers

This is an excellent opportunity for candidates from a variety of backgrounds. No legal qualifications are necessary, although experience of law may be useful. It is a post in which negotiating expertise, a flair for public relations and a good telephone manner play a vital role. Applicant must be honest, tactful, courteous.

Reply with C.V. to BOX H14.

HERTFORDSHIRE PA £13,000

The young Director of a city orientated property development company currently undergoing an exciting phase of expansion is looking for an experienced senior secretary (PA) who has ideally worked at top level in London.

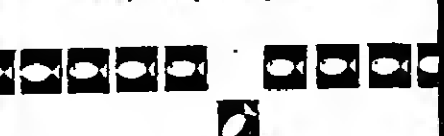
Responsible for the commercial development of the company he will look to you to liaise with clients, handle confidential proposals and presentations and provide administrative and secretarial support.

This is an excellent opportunity for someone who wants to work in a challenging London Style environment. In prestigious offices without the hassle of commuting! You should be educated to 'A' level, a car driver and with skills of 80/60 audio.

Age: 25-35 PICCADILLY OFFICE Telephone: 629 9686 ANGELA MORTIMER

Not every secretary wants an ordinary job

Some people want a special job. If you are good and looking for something different in TV, films, advertising, music, PR and publishing - call us.



JUDY FISHER ASSOCIATES 01-493 0238 Recruitment Consultants

Director of Administration needs energetic PA with audio, charm, experience and a sense of fun. Lots and lots of liaison for someone 25-34. Heavy shorthand could be useful. Call Lee on 377 8777

Middleton Jeffers Recruitment Consultants

Appreciating consultants...

This ad is entirely specific. It is written to those who know first-hand just how much effort and energy it takes to achieve real success as a successful recruitment consultant. Such success rarely comes easily. Ability, endeavour and ambition are all necessary. But confidence is essential too. And sometimes, confidence can be eroded by surroundings. Which brings us to the two questions we would like to ask. The first concerns loyalty. In all honesty: we have yet to meet a good consultant who was not also a supreme advocate for their own employer. Professional pride in one's own set up is admirable. Yet how often is it warranted? Is your company as uncompromising in its support of you as you are of it? The other point concerns career progress. The professional is often the last to benefit from his own skill and expertise. In your case, you spend each day of the week advising others. But how often do you pause to consider your own career? Are you going in reward, respect and recognition? Are you appreciating, as well as appreciated, as a consultant? If not, then perhaps we should talk quite soon - all the record, informally whenever and wherever suits you best. Telephone Louise Badley in confidence on 01-493 0713 or write to me at 10 Dover Street, London W1X 4LB

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION



TEAM SECRETARY

£ Excellent + mortgage subsidy + bonus, Victoria

Based in modern spacious offices in the heart of Victoria, we are one of the world's leading securities firms. Our highly successful International Finance Division is now looking for an energetic individual to join us as secretary to a young, dynamic team.

As team secretary your day will be busy and your responsibilities varied and fully involving. Our benefits are highly competitive, including mortgage subsidy and bonus, and the rewards are great for someone who is prepared to work hard and take on challenges and responsibility.

If you are educated to 'A' level standard and are numerate, have shorthand of 100 wpm and good word processing skills, then we would like to hear from you. Knowledge of, or the potential to learn, graphics, Lotus and basic research techniques is also highly desirable.

If you are a self-starter who enjoys working in a fast paced environment, then please call Sharon Lucas or Pandit Cite of our Human Resources Group between the hours of 12.00pm - 2.00pm on 01-721 2459

Salomon Brothers International Limited Victoria Plaza, 111 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0SB, England Tel: 01-721 2000

Publishing P.A. £13,000

Be part of the exciting whirl of this major publishing House. As a P.A. to the Commercial Director who is the man responsible for UK publishing operations, acquisitions and mergers you will have lots of involvement being the right hand to this busy man. Lots of benefits, subsidised restaurant, BUPA, organised social activities! If you have good secretarial skills, initiative and enthusiasm: Call BARBARA BARRROW.

Workout at lunchtime £11,500

Super perks, plush offices and subsidised restaurant all in one place! As Secretary/Receptionist in this prestigious company you will deal with a variety of tasks within this very busy Personnel Department assisting two young, dynamic Managers. Your excellent presentation, good typing and communication skills will secure you this very interesting position. Call HAZEL BRANDON 01-242 6321 Personnel Resources 75 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8US

TRAVEL AND LIVING IN THE SUN (SOON) PA TO CHAIRMAN UK/US MEDICAL EQUIPMENT COMPANIES

1989 Kitchester area 1990 Florida. Top skills and serious career intent leading to executive status. You will probably be aged about 28 to 36, numerate and adaptable, with high level experience.

Phone Mrs Pat Barber on 0705 671321.

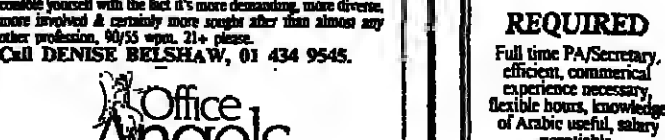
HAMMERSMITH NEW BUSINESS SEC/ASST £11,000

Apart from WP, your role is to help this company prepare for the Single European Market of 1992. So it's much more than straight typing, involving consulting managers & managers for up-to-the-minute info on international affairs. Present summaries, press your own work. Summ. well-educated person with typing, willing to combine delegated secretarial with being their own boss. Call MAGGIE SLATTERY, 01 741 8080.



FASHION PROMOTION S/H £12,000ish.

Set the pace in this new role. From Oxford Circus where there's no 'let my last secretary did it this way' to live up to, by an means all glamour, fashion retail PR involves working in with the busy week, alongside straight secretarial, but count yourself with the fact it's more demanding, more diverse, more involved & certainly more sought after than almost any other position. 40% w/e. 21% p/a. Call DENISE BELSHAW, 01 434 9545.



EXCEPTIONAL PA TO MD

Starting Salary c. £16,000 The charismatic, entrepreneurial MD of this 'hot' IT services company, based in superb Knightsbridge offices, requires the top level support of an exceptional PA. You will need to have many qualities: mature, City experience, discretion, diplomacy and smart appearance, to name but a few. The very busy MD requires the skills of a team, committed professional PA with excellent organisational skills and high standards of presentation.

Your secretarial skills, including shorthand, are taken as read but the actual typing must be superb. However, your social and time-keeping skills will be of paramount importance in this challenging yet highly rewarding position. Preferred Age: 30+.

International Secretaries Recruitment Consultants 01-493 7103

TRAVEL SECRETARY £12,500 + exc benefits

World leaders in luxury travel require first rate secretary (no SH) for Co Secretary. Good home & bright personality and sense of humour essential.

01-730 8122 NORTON & BAILEY Recruitment Consultants

REQUIRED

Full time PA/Secretary, efficient, commercial, experience necessary, flexible hours, knowledge of Arabic useful, salary negotiable. Contact Mrs A. Martin on 01-262 4664.

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Ace Foster Beazley
BILINGUAL SECRETARIES

FRENCH £14,500
Team Secretary working for 2 executives in Corporate Finance Department of an International Bank. Shorthand essential.

ITALIAN £10,500
UK agents for famous fashion Designers requires a Shorthand Secretary to assist Director in all aspects of his job especially marketing.

For further details call
Jonathan Barker on 01 242 8844
22-23 RED LION STREET, LONDON WC1R 4AP

Ace Foster Beazley
ASSOCIATES

Ace Foster Beazley
ANIMAL LOVER

If working alongside animals appeals, then a Director of one of London's famous emporiums is looking for an experienced Secretary with shorthand and typing and has confident manner to take care of him and his four legged charges.

For further details call
Lesley Green on 01 437 4502
11 OXFORD CIRCUS AVENUE, 231 OXFORD ST, LONDON W1R 1AD

Ace Foster Beazley
ASSOCIATES

Ace Foster Beazley
PUBLISHING PA £13,000

Want to work with the high fliers in the Publishing World? As PA to the Commercial Director who is responsible for the acquisitions and mergers as well as the financial controller of the UK publishing operation, you will need first class skills and a commitment to health and pensions schemes and a subsidised restaurant.

For further details call
Lesley Green on 01 437 4502
11 OXFORD CIRCUS AVENUE, 231 OXFORD ST, LONDON W1R 1AD

Ace Foster Beazley
ASSOCIATES

COLLEGE LEAVERS TO £10,000 SPORTS

A leading sports sponsoring company specialising in events is looking to recruit in the immediate future a secretary to work for their Sales Promotion Director. You will work closely with him, liaising with clients and helping to organise promotional events.

80/50

ADVERTISING

International advertising agency needs an enthusiastic, energetic secretary with some office experience and who enjoys being part of a successful team. You will be organising clients, fielding enquiries, organising launches and organising dinners.

75/0

CAREER IN PUBLISHING

One of Britain's most prestigious publishing houses with a wealth of titles from children's classics to this year's best sellers, need a college leaver to work in their publicity department. Organising launches, book fairs and reviews, you will work closely with authors and the press. Providing secretarial support to this team of young and enthusiastic individuals, you will consolidate your skills and place yourself firmly on the publishing career ladder.

Recruitment Consultants
01 925 0139

TM 01-581 4787 01-584 3222

INVOLVING JOBS FOR YOUNG SECRETARIES START JANUARY TO £16,000

We have a wide variety of very involving jobs to start in January at all levels within young, fun and informal environments: Design, Advertising, PR, Conference Organising, The Music Business, Property and Banking. Very busy jobs. 50% secretarial, 50% organising. They all need bright, cheerful young secretaries. Sh. useful but not nec. 55 typing. Age c.22.

Please call us for an interview with 6 D/LM
LONDON BRUSSELS

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR 1989

You would love to have a new job lined up for the New Year but don't really want to miss out on your Christmas bonus and the festivities at work. Why not start to do the groundwork? At Finesse we can introduce you to a host of leading companies who are currently recruiting staff but are prepared to wait until the New Year for the right person...

RECRUITMENT ASSISTANT

The perfect opportunity to combine practical experience with specialist knowledge passed on by professionals. You will be given thorough training and your secretarial workload will diminish as you establish yourself as a key team member with this progressive British company.

Specialists for the 18-25 year olds

FINESSE APPOINTMENTS
01-499 3531/3551

INTERIOR DESIGN

This prestigious design consultancy has created some of the most luxurious office interiors in London. You will be involved at all stages from initial client consultation, planning and design through to the official champagne opening! A superb career opportunity for a young, creative secretary.

PA/SECRETARY

For busy managing director needed immediately. Company specialises in executive selection, recruitment in science based industries. Dealing with clients, candidates, private affairs. Initiative, self-confidence and sense of humour helps plus shorthand/typing, degree background preferred.

Phone Carole Edwards
01 634 7233 or write with CV to Finesse Group,
34 Eccleston Square,
London SW1V 1PB.

CHAIRMAN'S SUITE £12,000

Working with another secretary you will be involved in all the aspects of running the office of a busy chairman of a major PLC. Obviously you will need to be organised and articulate with excellent interpersonal skills. French would be an advantage. The benefits are excellent and the working hours are 10 am to 6.30 pm.

Age 20-50.
Skills 100/50.
Call 01-631 4296

PA/SECRETARY £15,500

In a company where the quality and development of the staff is of prime importance the appointment of a secretary to one of our Senior Partners is an exciting career opportunity. A secretarial role with a 50 per cent administrative content you will enjoy a position where you will be able to use your professional, sense of humour and excellent secretarial skills to the full.

Age 20-35.
Skills 85 WP.
Call 01-631 4296

TRAIN LEGAL £12,750 + BONUS

A bright intelligent secretary with an interest in the law and who wants a new career will enjoy working with this expanding Mayfair legal firm. Their superb offices include their own in-house gym and an excellent profit share scheme. Your audio typing skills must be first class but then this is a first class opportunity.

Age 20-28.
Skills 65 WP.
Call 01-631 4296

THE PRIVATE CAPITAL GROUP, the personal financial management specialists within the Scandinavian Bank Group, have the following vacancies:

Secretary to Group Financial Controller
Private Capital Group, Hill Street, Mayfair.

Second Jobber required. Good standard of education and excellent WP (IBM) audio and shorthand skills. To join young, fast-moving working environment, must, however, be mature, particularly in dealing sensitively and confidentially with information. SALARY £11,000 pa.

Audio/WP Secretary
Mortgage Trust Limited, Hans Crescent, Knightsbridge.

To provide secretarial support to the Administration Manager, Asset Sales Manager and Company Accountant. Good organisational skills to deal with a variety of work in a young and friendly environment. Scope to develop PA role. SALARY £12,000 pa.

Part-time Receptionist
PC (Financial Services) Limited, Giltspur Street, EC1

A well-spoken and image conscious Receptionist. Experienced telephonist with good WP skills to work 10am-2pm with flexibility to work longer hours if needed. SALARY £6,500.

CV's in the first instance to:
Jill King, Personnel and Training Adviser,
The Private Capital Group Limited,
Guild House, 36-38 Fenchurch Street,
London, EC3M 3DQ.

ACP ADMINISTRATIVE & CLERICAL PERSONNEL LIMITED
3 London Wall Buildings, London Wall, London EC2M 5JL
Tel: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3579
Telex No. 087374 ACP NL G: 1950 5007

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT £13,000 + BENEFITS

The Administration Assistant works closely with the Company Secretary in providing administrative support to the Group Chief Executive and the group. The brief is broad ranging and a summary of responsibilities includes the production of performance figures, liaison with the media, record/maintenance of office equipment, administration of the BUPA scheme and acting as social secretary for corporate entertainment. Candidates should be educated to 'A' Level with a minimum of 3 years' commercial experience, typing/writing/processing skills (ideally Wordstar) and some shorthand. Training on the computer systems will be given. The pace is fast and pressured and the position calls for an ability to figure, a high degree of accuracy, a quick mind and the ability to plan ahead. Applications in strict confidence under reference AA3/7/T to the Managing Director.

3 LONDON WALL BUILDINGS, LONDON WALL, LONDON EC2M 5JL.

FUTURES SECRETARIES

FUTURES SECRETARIES

FUTURES SECRETARIES

SEER Career in Investment
£15,000-£18,000

Do you have a real interest in finance and City experience? The charming Board Director of a well established and prestigious international firm in the City seeks an intelligent PA with initiative and flair to learn all aspects of the business and organise his varied activities.

You should have a high standard of education and the ability to work unsupervised; although the secretarial content is low, skills of 80/60 are required. Age preferred 24-42. Please call on 01-631 0479.

COLLEGE LEAVER MARKETING TO £10,000

A young Secretary (recent college Leaver considered) 90/50 who likes a fast moving environment with creative aspirations is now sought in SW16. Free Car PARK & stylish surroundings. Call Shon on 01-631-1631.

Middleton Jeffers

COLLEGE LEAVER £8,000

Full-time - NO shorthand but good typing of 45+ is needed whilst being part of a young team involved in total office/interior design. Superb offices at Chelsea Harbour. Call Alice on 406-1631.

Middleton Jeffers

COLLEGE LEAVER PR-WI TO £3,000

Young successful Public Relations Co need a bright Secretary who is capable of more than just quick typing and who would enjoy being part of a team where there will be variety and genuine scope. Call Alice on 406-1631.

Middleton Jeffers

ACP ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT £13,000 + BENEFITS

The Administration Assistant works closely with the Company Secretary in providing administrative support to the Group Chief Executive and the group. The brief is broad ranging and a summary of responsibilities includes the production of performance figures, liaison with the media, record/maintenance of office equipment, administration of the BUPA scheme and acting as social secretary for corporate entertainment. Candidates should be educated to 'A' Level with a minimum of 3 years' commercial experience, typing/writing/processing skills (ideally Wordstar) and some shorthand. Training on the computer systems will be given. The pace is fast and pressured and the position calls for an ability to figure, a high degree of accuracy, a quick mind and the ability to plan ahead. Applications in strict confidence under reference AA3/7/T to the Managing Director.

3 LONDON WALL BUILDINGS, LONDON WALL, LONDON EC2M 5JL.

Success in PR...
£13,000

Like this high-profile successful woman secretary in a front-line role as PA to her company's Chief Executive. Besides organising all aspects of business for your dynamic young boss you will enjoy extensive liaison with co-ordinate personal appointments and day-to-day activities. If you have an eye for detail and have plenty of initiative then this is your ideal position. Competent skills 85/50 essential. Call 01-400 1232

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/DUBAI TAX FREE SALARY

This luxurious hotel situated on the coast of the Arabian Gulf is looking to recruit a professional secretary with 100/50 skills to work at senior level. Overseas and hotel experience preferred and the ability to use own initiative essential. Tel MAGGIE.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/SALES EXECUTIVE TAX FREE SALARY - DUBAI

Working in the sales department of this luxurious hotel, you will be responsible for a number of accounts, negotiations with conference organisers, liaison with banking departments and varied public relations duties. Previous experience in De Liza Hotels essential, overseas experience preferable. Tel MAGGIE.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY £14,000 neg COMPANY MOVING TO LEATHERHEAD

An excellent opportunity to be financially rewarded for your excellent skills. Working at senior level you will be responsible for forward planning, energy forecasting and providing a full secretarial service. Skills of 90/80 required. Tel MAGGIE.

ADAIR INTERNATIONAL
01-734 9582
PICCADILLY GROUVE
FRES
01-323 2749 Direct Line

Yachts Galore!

Our client is a well-established and authoritative name when it comes to yacht brokerage. They deal in yacht dealership worldwide, operating at the top end of the market. You don't need to be a good sailor to join this company with a difference - but a bright, on-the-ball enthusiast looking to be part of a small, close-knit team. In return they offer an exciting environment with plenty of advancement and scope to utilise your excellent people skills. Salary to £15,000. Competent secretarial skills. Call 01-493 0713.

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Please apply in writing, with full career details to: Ann Coyne, Personnel Officer, British Medical Association, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP.

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SECRETARY

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CV's including two referees should be forwarded to the Personnel Officer, St George's Hospital Medical School, Cranmer Terrace, London SW17 0BE. 01-782 9944 Ext 58020. Closing date will be the 22nd December 1988. Consideration 19/88.

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Continued from page 18 COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

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TENNIS: LENDL, THE DEFENDING CHAMPION, IS FINALLY DETHRONED AFTER GRUELLING MARATHON

Becker pulls off Master plan

From Richard Evans New York

Madison Square Garden has witnessed many extraordinary sporting contests but few will have surpassed the final of the Nabisco Masters...

At the 43min it broke records for longevity and it nearly broke poor Lendl's heart. No player could have done more in defence of a title he had virtually made his own...

After more than 4 1/2 hours the match stood at 6-6 in the fifth set and both players had won exactly 157 points.

It was 6-5 to Becker in the tie-break and the first match point for either player. Becker put in a second serve, stayed back and immediately a fierce baseline rally developed...

By now the ball had crossed the net more than 30 times and the tension was excruciating. Finally, on the 37th shot of the rally, Becker's backhand caught the tape and hung, for a split second, in the air.

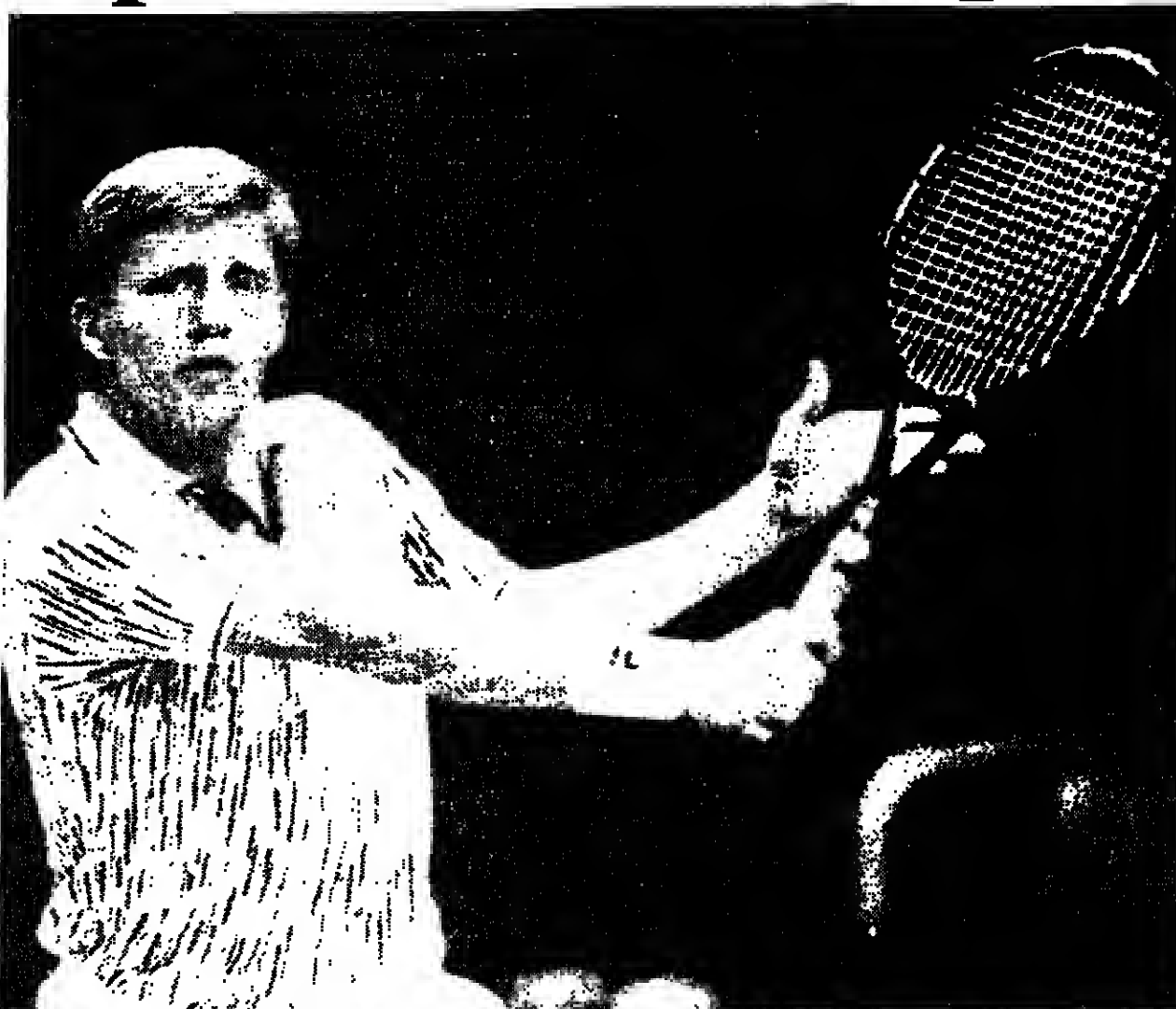
"Oh no, please don't do that," Lendl pleaded with the ball. But it didn't listen. Dropping into Lendl's court, it stripped the Master's cloak from this brave and worthy champion who had come so close to salvaging something from the wreckage of his year.

Becker, almost dazed with exhaustion, said: "I don't know it has happened yet. It's a long time, Wimbledon in 1986 in fact, since I had this kind of win and I have learned a lot since. I have learned especially that the good things do not come easily."

Becker praised his Australian coach, Bob Brett, who once offered his services to the Lawn Tennis Association. "Bob and I got on a very good track together," Becker said. "I'm a sensitive animal and he found the right words and the right things to help me."

Crucially, Brett told Becker to keep a tight rein on his volatile temperament. The advice proved priceless late in the fifth set when Lendl, who had been running like a stag to make numerous impossible gets, lunged for a short ball and shovelled it back right on to the tape.

Lendl's first serve deserted him in the deciding tie-break and he managed to win only two of his six service points before that desperate rally on match-point sealed his fate.



Master stroke: Becker, of West Germany, is perfectly placed to claim his first Masters title from defending champion Lendl

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Attention focuses on British failure

From Barry Wood, Melbourne

While Great Britain returned to the practice court yesterday in an effort to ease the sting of their shock defeat by Indonesia and to prepare for the consolation event, the National Tennis Centre in Melbourne was still buzzing with news of their defeat in the first round of the NEC Federation Cup.

The Australian team's victory over Israel was almost ignored by the local media as Britain's disgrace stole the headlines, and the Indonesians - who play Spain today - were feted by television and radio throughout the day.

On the playing front, the United States proved they may be a difficult nation to stop when they completely overwhelmed Switzerland.

Michael took only 40 minutes to defeat Sandrine Jaquet, 6-0, 6-1, and Gigi Fernandez and Patty Fendick took 42 minutes to win 6-0, 6-0 over Jaquet and Emanuela Zardo. Sandwiched in between,

Barbara Potter beat Eva Krapf, 6-2, 6-4. RESULTS: First round: Czechoslovakia 3, Brazil 0; United States 3, Switzerland 0; Canada 2, South Korea 1; New Zealand 3, China 0; Argentina 3, Greece 0; Denmark 3, Luxembourg 0; Finland 2, Hungary 1, Sweden 3, Bulgaria 0.

Sarah Loosemore will participate in the Hopman Cup eight-place in Perth at the end of December. Loosemore joins Jeremy Bates in a field that includes Pat Cash, Steffi Graf and the return of Hana Mandlikova after six months of injury.

The 1989 Federation Cup, again sponsored by NEC, will be held in Tokyo from October 1-8. The International Tennis Federation announced yesterday that 40 countries have entered the women's World Team Tennis Championships.

The ITF, meanwhile, has also formally declared Steffi Graf, of West Germany, and Mats Wilander, of Sweden, as world champions.

Sideshow takes centre stage

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

The Nabisco Masters doubles tournament, to be played at the Albert Hall from today until Sunday, is the doubles equivalent of the singles event won by Boris Becker in New York on Monday.

These are play-off events for the most successful singles players and doubles teams of the year-long grand prix circuit.

Both events will be the last for both events as we have come to know them. From 1990, the Association of Tennis Professionals will run its own tour, shunning the grand prix from the main line into the sidings.

Provisionally, the ATP plans to rename the singles and doubles in one climactic promotion, as it was until the split in 1986, and to take this showpiece of tennis to the world's most prestigious tennis event, Wimbledon.

The origins of the Albert Hall tournament had nothing to do with the grand prix or the Masters. The Dallas-based promoters, World Championships Tennis (WCT), used to run a tour independent of the grand prix. The WCT tour had its own play-off series for singles

and, in 1973, introduced a separate climax for doubles teams.

This was more successful than the equivalent grand prix Masters doubles, and in 1986 the two events were merged, with WCT organizing the combined doubles festival. The tournament beginning today will be WCT's sixteenth. The first six were played in North America, the rest in England.

Like the Masters singles, the doubles begins with all-play-all matches in two groups of four. This is good for the spectators, who have at least three chances to watch their favourite players, and good for the competitors, who can afford to lose a match while playing themselves into form at a time of year when their tennis may have lost a little of its edge.

The field includes three teams who won grand slam titles in the years Ken Flach and Robert Seguso (Wimbledon), Sergio Casal and Emilio Sanchez (United States), and Rick Leach and Jim Pugh (Australia).

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RUGBY UNION: ROMANIA'S LINEOUT STRENGTH COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS

Tackling relieves stalemate

By Michael Stevenson

A game wholly fashioned by wind-blown forces ended in a draw at Hull in a spirited but otherwise eminently forgettable contest. But the tackling was excellent, with the Hymers flanker, Singh, superb. Predictably, this meant that the sides tended to cancel each other out.

Hymers had a great chance of an early lead, when Singh picked up neatly, fed Andrew and, when he was high-tackled, Ashton missed what should have been a straightforward penalty in the gusting wind.

Ashton almost made amends, when he came in to the line, beat one man and chipped diagonally for Cupples to tidy efficiently. Immediately, Gibbons ran well down the left for Hymers but was tackled and penalized for not releasing.

It was appropriate that the stalemate should be broken by two errors. After a scoreless first half, Beggs hoisted to the Hymers post; Gibbons, misjudging the hanging ball, let it bounce and O'Neill collected for Beggs to convert.

Coleraine led for one minute only. On the resumption, Beggs had an intended pass blocked by Park, Andrew collected and scored under the posts for Ashton to level the score with the conversion.

It could be argued that Coleraine were unlucky not to win as they finished strongly, hammering away at the Hymers line, after a loose pass by Bennett had initiated a period of pressure compounded by a missed touch by Ashton and some nervous handling.

Wales lose injured Norster

By Owen Jenkins

Robert Norster has pulled out of Wales's international against Romania at Cardiff on Saturday because of a split tendon on the middle finger of his left hand.

The second-row forward was examined by the Welsh Rugby Union surgeon, Harold Richards, at a training session last night and has been advised not to take part.

John Ryan, the Wales coach, said: "Bob will have to have an operation on his injured finger on Thursday and will be out until the end of December. A decision will be made as to his replacement tomorrow night. It is obviously a disappointment but the good news is that he will be fit for the five nations championship."

Kevin Moseley, of Pontypool, has been drafted in to the squad and he is the likely contender to take Norster's place.

Ryan, who has been studying video films of the Romania v France match, said of his replacement: "They're very strong up front and we expect a lot of competition at the lineouts. Romania did well in the lineout against France, especially in the middle where they have a tall, athletic jumper."

"I think we'll have to use our strength in the backs. We've got to vary our game. If we move the ball too quickly we'll give them back-row free reign. We need to tie them down and the idea is to give our backs good, quick ball."

"The fact that Romania did so well against France is a positive thing for us. Our players will be more motivated and thumb kept him out for six weeks and now he suffers another set-back.

The South-West are due to confirm their team today, having checked on the well-being of Buzza after the University match and crossing their fingers that Halliday may yet be fit to play.

London, meanwhile, have reverted to the XV which should have played against the South-West last week for their game against the North at Imber Court - that is, Harriman, the Harlequins wing, and Rendall, the Wasps prop, are restored to the side.

Edinburgh's under-21 team to meet the Anglo-Scots at Myreside on December 17 will be led by Peter Wright, the Edinburgh and Scotland under-21 prop, Murray Walker, his club-mate, will occupy the pivotal position in a back division which has both pace and skill.

Edinburgh are particularly pleased to see the wings with Forster, who has scored three tries this season for Currie and McRobbie, who has reaped the benefits of playing in New Zealand in the summer by scoring three tries at the weekend.

While the bulk of the team has been chosen from first and second division clubs, there are five players who play in the lower divisions. They are: Maclean, Henderson, Burnett, McKelvie and Ward.

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YACHTING

Madec on route to the front

By Barry Pickett

Despite losing seven hours repairing the damage caused by a spectator boat at the start of the Route of Discovery transatlantic race on Sunday, Jet Services, the 75ft French catamaran was back in the running last night. Skipped by the transatlantic record holder, Serge Madec, the yacht was expected to take the lead last night as the 20-strong fleet headed towards the third turning mark in the Canary Islands on the way to the West Indies.

The leading monohull yesterday was Mers, a 30ft Swiss Fehlmann's Swiss Whirlwind Round the World entry, which held a tenuous three-mile advantage over Union Bank of Finland, skippered by Ludde Ingvall.

With integrity, under the command of Andrew Coghill and sailing with an amateur crew, led British hopes in tenth place, 72 miles behind the leaders.

LEADING POSITIONS: 1. Mers, P Fehlmann (Swiss), 3,218; 2. Union Bank of Finland, Ludde Ingvall (Fin), 3,222; 3. Hispania, Joubert (Sp), 3,330; 4. Barmann (Finland), J. Barmann (Fin), 3,333; 5. Garmadine (Falk), H. 3,333; 6. Leifing (Denmark), 3,333; 7. With Integrity (A Coghill), 3,331; 8. The World (Windsurfing), 3,337; 9. Great Britain (T Edwards), 3,347.

The world windsurfing championships for production boards was again abandoned yesterday.

The best goal of the match, volleying in a hard shot from the corner, and Crosby scored the equalizer.

Adenham went down 2-3 at home to Clwyd. The score was 1-1 at half time. Carpenter then put the visitors one ahead with a fine solo effort, Cham clipped a ball over the goalkeeper to put Adenham on level terms. Ten minutes from time, Leighton scored three goals against St Edmund's Canterbury. They owe much of this to the midfield direction of Nicholas and to Worthington, who plays for Chelsea Junior 11, he has scored seven times in the last three matches, including three goals against St Edmund's Canterbury.

GOLF

Consistent Scotland role gives Mayo challenges for lead

From John Hennessy La Manga

Paul Mayo, of Wales, the 1987 British amateur champion, has handsomely achieved his ambition at his first PGA qualifying school here, making the 72-hole cut in this six-round tournament.

A 68 year-old, three under par on the North course, not only gave him 12 shots to spare on 276 at 10 under par, it also put him within one shot of the lead, held jointly by Alberto Binaghi (Italy), Jesper Parnevik (Sweden) and Rick Hartmann (United States) in Adelaide. It was quite extraordinary.

With a stiff breeze blowing, Mayo hit every green in the conventional number of strokes and it was mostly a question of whether or not the ballie putt would drop. They did on three occasions, from two feet at the long third, from six feet at the short eighth and from six inches at another long hole, the 15th.

The only moment of alarm in another admirably controlled round of golf was when his tee shot at the long 11th came within six inches of going out of bounds.

Mayo is the only British player in the top eight, a reflection on the gathering strength of the game across the Channel, save only for Hartmann's intrusion.

Parnevik, the overnight leader, dropped short in three successive holes from the 11th, but the Swedes are resilient characters in golf as well as in tennis. An eagle three at the 15th, where he hit a four-iron to 20 feet and boled the putt, and a wedge to six feet at the 17th, brought him back to par for the round.

The 72-hole cut fell on 288, leaving as usual, some distinguished names out in the cold, none more so than that of Jack Nicklaus, son of the master, on 298. "I arrived here in good form and was encouraged by a first round of 70, but I haven't played well since," he said.

Others who failed included David Wood (289), a Welsh international, Craig Laurence (290), a former English match-play champion, Jeremy Robinson (291), his stroke-play equivalent, and David Cook (293), of Australia, the holder of the European Open amateur title.

LEADING SCORES (British and Irish unless stated): 276: J Parnevik (Swe), 68, 68, 71; A Binaghi (It), 68, 70, 67; R Hartmann (US), 68, 67, 71, 68, 276; P Mayo, 68, 67, 73, 68; M Farry (Ir), 68, 71, 68, 68; J Parnevik (Swe), 68, 68, 71, 277; L Henderson (Swe), 70, 69, 70, 68; M Jones, 70, 68, 72, 278; P Carrigan, 67, 70, 72, 70; C Gray, 68, 74, 72; J Stephen, 68, 68, 74, 74; M Krantz (Swe), 70, 72, 70; V Singh (Ind), 71, 68, 72, 69; J Parnevik (Swe), 71, 68, 72, 69; J McHenry, 285; J Hewitson, 286; P Broadhurst, 287; V Henry, 288; O Curry, P Gwyn.

GOLF

Scotland role gives Brand chance to show his maturity

From Mitchell Platts, Golf Correspondent, Melbourne

Brand Brand far surprised even himself when he won the South Australian Open by the preposterous margin of seven strokes only five days after arriving in Australia three weeks ago. Now his objective is to help Scotland win the Philip Morris World Cup, starting here on the Royal Melbourne course tomorrow.

"It would make it a fairytale month out here for me," he said. "Few new better week after missing the half-way cut in the Volvo Masters. But I had one of those pure weeks in Adelaide. It was quite extraordinary."

Brand, despite his junior tag to avoid confusion with the nameake on the PGA Tour, assumes the role of elder statesman this week. His partner is Colin Montgomerie, who 12 months ago this week was engaged in the frenetic task of securing his card on the PGA European tour via the qualifying school.

Montgomerie's rise from Walker Cup player in 1985 to the Scottish team which he captained in 1987, and that of Brand, who took from 1979 to 1984 to make the transition, "I know how Colin is going to feel," Brand said. "I felt very nervous when I tied for the first time with Sam Torrance in Rome. I'm determined to give this week everything if only because I know how much it is going to mean to Colin."

"I think we have a very good chance of winning. The course will suit Colin because he is a very steady player. And steadiness is the mainstay of the game in this event because quite honestly, it is difficult to get two guys playing well together over four rounds of stroke-play."

Brand cites the case of Wales winning the World Cup in Maui, Hawaii, last year as a reason why he and Montgomerie can approach the event with confidence. "Wales was because Ian Woosnam was there," Brand said. "I mean no disrespect to David Llewellyn but Wosle, the way he was playing then, could have pulled anyone along. I'm not the same as Wosle, but together I think Colin and I are probably as good a team as Wales were last year. So why should we not win?"

Brand, with six victories on the PGA Tour between 1982 and 1987, was disappointed that he did not record another success in Europe last season. He mostly attributes that to refining his swing to erase the destructive effects which too often tarnished his success. "To achieve that he has worked with increasing diligence on the practice range under the studious eye of Bob Torrance."

"We've been concentrating on everything from posture to the way we hold the club. My hands were too high and I was standing too far away from the ball. Since I have started standing closer to it I'm getting the club into a better position at the top than when I do mis-club. It is not as destructive as it was."

Brand does admit that after another arduous season he is in need of recharging the batteries. He will not arrive home in Queen Charlotte, the famous village between Bristol and Bath, until December 19 because he moves on from here to represent Europe in the Kirin Cup in Hawaii.

"I'll be ready by then to put the clubs away," he said. "I'll play some snooker. I'm going to do some running and some physical fitness training... and some drinking. But what I will enjoy most is sitting in my own home for more than a month, without travelling, watching the television and having a cup of tea with toast and syrup."

Brand: sweet taste of success

£100,000 mixed event

The heavy schedule of amateur tournaments received another boost yesterday when the C & A, the chain store group, announced it is to spend £100,000 annually on a tournament for mixed club players.

The Rodeo Champion of Champions competition will be decided on net aggregate and around 1,000 players are expected to compete in seven regional stroke-play qualifying tournaments. The leading 60 pairs will then go through to a 18-hole final at Woburn on October 12.

The sponsors will carry all the costs, but each club to enter its top man and woman players will be asked to donate £50 to the Prince's Trust. This is expected to raise a more than £30,000 towards helping disadvantaged young people aged 14 to 25.

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SKIING

Girardelli stakes his claim

From Iain Macleod, Sestriere

The much vaunted battle for World Cup overall supremacy between Fimmin Zurbriggen, of Switzerland, and Alberto Tomba, of Italy, yesterday was given a new dimension when the only man with a proven ability to beat them at their own game won his first slalom for three and a half years.

Marc Girardelli, the Austrian-born skier who competes for Luxembourg, and who suffered cruelly from injuries last season, emphasized that he is back to his best.

He completed the two runs of the Kaudacher piste in Imun 47.31sec, giving him an impressive margin of victory of 0.89sec over the former world champion, Jonas Nilsson, of Sweden.

Accola, of Switzerland, was third. Vying with Girardelli for attention, however, was Italy's national hero, Tomba, the Olympic and World Cup slalom champion, who has had a mediocre start to the season.

Nonetheless, it failed to deter an estimated crowd of 15,000, four times more than had been expected - from clambering on to the steeply inclined slopes of the high-altitude resort.

The noise and colour should have been Tomba's inspiration; instead he squandered a clear lead at the intermediate time on the second run, and when he missed the gate there was an almighty, collective sigh of disappointment.

Tomba, who finds himself under almost intolerable pressure to repeat last season's phenomenal form (he won nine World Cup races), said: "It was just bad luck. I wanted to go too fast. I went too close. But I know there's nothing wrong. I'm in good shape."

But if Tomba's career has taken a temporary nosedive, Girardelli, winner of the overall title in 1985 and 1986, and the only man besides Zurbriggen (who failed to qualify for the second run yesterday) who can win in all four disciplines, has closed to 15 points the gap between himself and the Swiss in this season's competition.

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MOTOR SPORT

Toleman and Lee look to mean business

By Keith Macklin

Ted Toleman and Barry Lee will be embarking on one of the most exciting drives in history on Christmas Day when they set off aboard their £100,000 TGR8 Enduro for the Paris-Dakar rally (Jeremy Hart writes).

Toleman, competing in his third 'Dakar' is not only aiming to finish this year, but to show his 130m. p. b car off to prospective buyers.

Now the car has the potential to finish the rally, we have found a market for the Enduro," Toleman said. "Other teams have approached us about buying the car, but more significantly the military have shown interest in the car as a fast pursuit vehicle so whatever happens this year the rally will have taken a new turn for us in business terms."

The £250,000 team was launched in Oxfordshire yesterday just a few weeks after Toleman and Lee had been testing in the dunes of Tunisia - part of the new route for the Paris-Dakar.

FOOTBALL: TRAVEL-BATTERED SCOTS GRAB A REST BEFORE DEFENDING THEIR THREE-GOAL UEFA CUP LEAD IN HEARTLAND OF YUGOSLAVIA

Hearts braced for bruising defence of British honour

From Roddy Forsyth, Mostar, Yugoslavia

If the whole of the first half of the Scottish championship has been a deeply depressing experience for Heart of Midlothian, the players and management were at least reminded of their alternative status when they arrived in Yugoslavia yesterday for their UEFA Cup third round second leg tie with Velez Mostar.

Italian hopes are high

By Keith Blackmore

Inter Milan, Napoli, and Juventus, the three leading teams in the Italian first division, carry their country's best hopes of advancing to the last eight of the UEFA Cup this evening.

Change of role for Gosney

Portsmouth have unearthed an unlikely new goalkeeper in the shape of their goalkeeper, Andy Gosney, aged 25, who has switched roles to lead the reserves' attack and so far has responded by scoring both their goals in the last two games.

Sheringham tipped for England by Robson

Bobby Robson, the England manager, has praised the part played by Sheringham in Millwall's successful start to their first season in the first division.

SNOOKER

Pulman vexed by Hendry's lack of drive

John Pulman, the snooker world champion for 11 years from 1977 - the days when sponsors were non-existent and prize-money a rarity - was a restless man as he pondered upon Stephen Hendry's announcement that he had become "bored" and "lacking in motivation" during his quarter-final victory over Dennis Taylor in the recent World Matchplay tournament on Monday.

ter-finals is made in Switzerland on Friday but the rigours of their journey to this somewhat remote mountain resort served as a reminder that further progress is far from guaranteed despite a 3-0 lead from the first leg in Scotland two weeks ago.

Irish Cup gets extra boost from sponsors

Sponsorship of the Irish Cup is being increased by Bass Ireland Limited this season by 10 per cent to £15,000 (George A writes).

Dejected Shaw teams up with Austrians

By Chris Moore

Gary Shaw, the former Aston Villa forward, turned his back dejectedly on English football last week after agreeing to join Klagenfurt, the Austrian club.

Fashanu and Anderson are called to hearing

John Fashanu and Viv Anderson will offer their versions of the Plough Lane "tunnel incident" to an FA disciplinary commission in London on December 20.

Boxing judges to compute contests

Controversial judging decisions in amateur boxing, which were conspicuous at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles and Seoul, are likely to be reduced or even eliminated by the use of computerized scoring techniques.

Move for ban

The suspension of weightlifting from the Olympics in the wake of drugs scandals at Seoul is to be proposed by a leading Olympic official at a two-day meeting starting in Ottawa on Friday.

Sharp in doubt

Gracie Sharp, Everton's Scotland forward, has a torn groin muscle and is set to miss the television League match on Sunday, but Ian Rush is ready to return after injury for Liverpool.

Parisan Stadium which is the venue for a match to be played this afternoon to save the cost of floodlighting the pitch.

The playing surface is sodden after days of rain and even the fierce gales which gust through the limestone gorges of this region will not make a significant impact on the overlying moisture so the chances of elegant football being produced by either side today are remote.

Every sign suggests that Hearts will be obliged to endure an intense and physically draining contest which will try both their temperament and their concentration.

Mostar have been reinforced by the return of their regular striker, Juric, who missed the first leg because the Yugoslav army declined to release him from service. The military authorities were not much more sympathetic to his pleas to be allowed to play in the return leg but someone at Mostar has apparently pulled strings and Juric joined his team-mates yesterday.

Against his presence, however, Mostar will be without three of their customary squad because of suspension.

In the Scottish camp, the main worries concern the midfield player, Neil Berry, who has a damaged ankle and Eamonn Bannon, the former Dundee United forward, who scored one of Hearts' goals in the first leg.

He has suffered an infected leg wound but declared last night that treatment by antibiotics had been positive and that he felt able to play.

Every game is the highlight of my career," he said. "Whether it's in the League, the FA Cup, or any other competition, I love every match that I'm involved in."

On Saturday, King leads his team into an FA Cup second round tie at home to Halifax Town, hoping to register Altrincham's 14th victory over Football League opponents, which would be a record for a non-League club.

John is the best man-manager in non-league football," Lloyd said. "He's a marvellous motivator. He brings out of players abilities which they didn't even know they had."

Warren rejects claims he did not pay purses

Frank Warren, the promoter, has denied that Herol Graham was his challenger, Johnny Melish, have not been paid for a recent British middleweight title bout.

Wenton out to extend his unbeaten run

By George Ace

Nigel Wenton, a super-featherweight prospect from Merseyside, and John Lowe, a former amateur international from Belfast, are in two back-up fights on a Barney Eastwood promotion at the Lister Hall tonight.

Opie decides to rest from competition

Lisa Opie, tired and dispirited after her surprise defeat by Alison Cummings in the semi-finals of the InterCity National Championships last week, is in rest from competition at least until the end of January (Colin McQuillan writes).

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Table with columns for League, Goals, and other statistics for various football matches.

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Loyal servant: From club captain to manager, King always commands respect with his undying enthusiasm for Altrincham

King leads troops by example

By Paul Newman

For a man who has seen and achieved so much in semi-professional football, the most impressive aspect of John King's attitude to his job as manager of Altrincham is his sheer enthusiasm.

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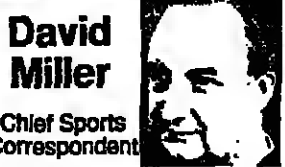
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Boxing judges to compute contests

COMMENTARY



David Miller, Chief Sports Correspondent

Controversial judging decisions in amateur boxing, which were conspicuous at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles and Seoul, are likely to be reduced or even eliminated by the use of computerized scoring techniques.

Such computers, already in use in the Soviet Union, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Switzerland, will be tested in international competition in Bulgaria and East Germany early next year and will be used in the European championships in Athens in June and the world championships in Moscow in September.

Professor Awar Chowdhry, president of the International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA), announced this yesterday at the general assembly of the Association's National Olympic Committees.

After sharp criticism by Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC president, of disorder in the ring during the East German early round, and also the continuing medical criticism of the alleged dangers of boxing, Chowdhry has taken urgent action to protect amateur boxing's future for two years.

On November 4, he met privately with Samaranch and yesterday he addressed the IOC medical commission on safety precautions. Samaranch had softened his attitude with a statement on November 18 in Puerto Rico, at the meeting of Pan-American NOCs, that he would not permit the elimination of boxing from the Olympics, which some had been seeking.

"There is always scope for difference of opinion in judging," Chowdhry said yesterday. "Just as there is in judo, gymnastics, diving, canoeing and wrestling. The boxing judging in Seoul was in fact superior to that in LA, but was undermined by one or two very bad decisions. You cannot defend this. However, the computer system will completely remove such decisions as the wrongful defeat of the American, Jones. It will be foolproof."

The Russian computer, which is the one to be used internationally, registers the instant recording of judges every time they consider a legitimate blow has been landed on the target area.

"These judgements are jagged, and make impossible the practice of 'impression judging', by which the judge makes an arbitrary decision at the conclusion of the bout, with the possibility of an imbalance of marking between the early and late, more immediate, phases of the bout."

"We have already seen the computer in Leningrad, and by the end of 1989 it will become compulsory in all international competition," he said yesterday. The IOC medical commission has been advised of an in-depth study of the physical effects of boxing on competitors being carried out by the Johns Hopkins University of the United States.

This investigation, the magnitude of which makes it unique, was commissioned in 1986 by the US Amateur Boxing Federation. The university is analysing 500 randomly chosen boxers in six cities over a two-year period, with epidemiologic surveys and a determination of any excessive medical risk. Dr. Stewart is the principal investigator.

Chowdhry yesterday drew the medical commission's attention to the relative safety of boxing compared with several other sports. There has been a fatality in Olympic history or in the amateur world championships.

There were 107 nations competing in Seoul and the AIBA believes the protection of boxers, predominantly in the 17-21 age group, is protected by these eight factors:

The compulsory use of approved headguards and gumshields; a compulsory four-week rest after a severe bout and a standing count of eight after a knockdown; complete technical records of every boxer with heart and brain scans; effective drug control, with no positive cases in Seoul; referee intervention to protect weaker boxers; doctors in attendance before, during and after competition; heavier gloves for higher weight categories; and a doctor's option to halt a bout at any time.

On November 1 Robert Voy, the chief medical officer of the US Olympic Committee, wrote to Prince Alexandre de Merode, chairman of the medical commission, to draw his attention to misinformation circulating about boxing and to the extensive provisions for safety which were being taken, particularly within the US, where amateur boxing remains a major sport.

Sharp in doubt

Gracie Sharp, Everton's Scotland forward, has a torn groin muscle and is set to miss the television League match on Sunday, but Ian Rush is ready to return after injury for Liverpool.

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